MANGA BY
Mingming

CREATED BY
GAINAX • khara

2

NEON GENESIS EVANGELION

Campus Apocalypse

A NEXUS SPAWNING A WEB OF MYRIAD PATHS—
AND YET, THERE IS ONLY ONE PATH TO BE TAKEN.

...WHAT IS THIS...?

AND THE INEVITABLE CIRCUMSTANCES CONTINUE TO DRAW HIM FURTHER ALONG—

WE'RE NOT GOING TO FORCE YOU TO DO THIS... WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO DO FROM HERE ON OUT IS...

WHAT IS THE FUTURE THAT YOU WILL BRING?

FIFTH EVENT

NEON GENESIS EVANGELION

Campus Apocalypse

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EVERY YEAR, THE NERV ACADEMY CELEBRATES THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST WITH A CELEBRATION KNOWN AS "THE FESTIVAL OF THE HOLY SAVIOR."

ON THIS DAY-- AND ONLY ON THIS DAY--DOES THE ACADEMY OPEN ITS GATES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND IT'S ALWAYS QUITE THE DRAW, PACKED WITH FESTIVALGOERS.

聖ソ

FESTIVAL OF THE HOLY SAVIOR

AT THE FESTIVAL, THE CHIEF ATTRACTION IS THE CHORAL CLUB PERFORMING THE HYMNALS, AS WELL AS A STAGE PERFORMANCE OF THE NATIVITY PLAY.

AND THIS YEAR, SHINJI'S CLASS IS IN CHARGE OF IT.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHERE IS REI?

WHAT ARE YOU TWO YAMMERING ON ABOUT? AS LONG AS I'M INVOLVED IN THIS PLAY, FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION, GOT IT?

YEP YEP! TOTALLY AGREE THERE. AND BESIDES, IT'S A ROLE WITH ABSOLUTELY NO SPEAKING LINES, ANYWAY.

WELL, I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT HER. AFTER ALL, SHE BASICALLY HAD A SUBSITUTE UNDERSTUDY ROLE ASSIGNED TO HER YESTERDAY.

I LIKE THIS WILD HOLY VIRGIN... ♥

disappointed ガーン!!

MAN, SORYU'S SURE CHANGED.

BAKA SHINJI, DID YOU HEAR ANY ACTUAL NEWS? I MEAN, YOU'RE NEIGHBORS, RIGHT?

Featuring Asuka as the Holy Virgin Mary

HOW ON EARTH WOULD I KNOW IF *YOU* DON'T KNOW, HUH, ASUKA? TO BEGIN WITH, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HER HOUSE IS, AND--

yank

--WAIT-- SHE LIVES CLOSE TO ME?

SWOOSH

BOOM!

UM..

(silence)...

AH--

AYA-NAMI !?

clomp clomp

er...

plop!

Featuring Rei as the Pantomime Horse

IT'S FINE?!

plop! thito

WELL, WHATEVER. THAT'S FINE. MORE IMPOR-TANTLY--

I MEAN, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BE WEARING IT ANY-WAY, AND IT WAS A LOT EASIER THAN CARRYING IT, AND BESIDES--WEARING IT HAS A CALMING EFFECT.

hm'n nod

REI-- DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO SCHOOL WITH THAT ON YOUR HEAD?

I GET IT.

CONSIDER THIS YOUR DUTY!

A HORSE, GOT IT? A HORSE.

AS I MENTIONED YESTERDAY, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY LINES AT ALL, AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STAND THERE, LIKE A HORSE WOULD STAND THERE.

THERE'S SOMETHING JUST WRONG ABOUT THIS SCENE.

UM, LIKE~

HUH?

NO, IT WASN'T.

MINE WAS FUNNIER.

jerk

AY, WHY YA PANTIN' SO HARD, SHINJI? HOPIN' T' GET A LITTLE *HOARSE?*

my neigh-bor...

NOW I'VE GOT NO REASON TO ASK IF I CAN WALK HER HOME--

ASUKA LANGLEY SORYU.

Doesn't your face get all steamed up in there?

WELL, I CAN'T REALLY SAY THAT ASUKA AND I GET ALONG ALL THAT WELL, BUT...

UH, WELL-- LIKE--

IT'S JUST, SOME THINGS HAPPENED, AND, LIKE...

...LIKE THERE'S REALLY ANY WAY THAT I CAN TELL HIM THAT WE'RE FIGHTING TOGETHER TO SAVE THE WORLD.

No, it's fine.

REI AYANAMI (UNDER HORSE HEAD)

KAWORU NAGISA!

WHY ARE YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN HANGING OUT WITH THOSE WACKA-LOONS, HUH?

"When it's winter, you sleep where it's warm."

No denying the wackaloon part.

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY TIME TO EAT BREAKFAST, SO--

OKAY, THEN, GET ON WITH EATING IT REALLY QUICK--

-- WE'RE LOSING VALUABLE PRACTICE TIME.

WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE CARRYING?

rustle

YOU'RE TAKING THIS WAAAAAY TOO FAR!!

LOOK, I'LL TAKE YOU DOWN TO THE CAFETERIA AND TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING AFTER THIS, SO JUST STOP WITH THE CARROT STUFF, ALL RIGHT?

I MUST BECOME THE CHARACTER, JUST AS IF I WERE BORN AS A PANTOMIME HORSE.

もっしゃもっしゃ

CRUNCH CRUNCH

METHOD ACTING.

...WAIT, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU *DOING?*

CHOMP CHOMP

OH, IKARI-KUN.

ズルズル drag drag

Oh~!!

I'LL GO, TOO.

SURE THING, CLASS REP.

WOULD YOU MIND HELPING ME OUT BY CHECKING ON THE MAIN HALL AND SEEING HOW THINGS ARE GOING?

And the Virgin doth pray-

THEY'VE GOT VOICES LIKE ANGELS-- SOMETHING ABOUT IT JUST PURIFIES THE SOUL.

I GUESS I SHOULD CHECK ON HOW THEY'RE ALL DOING.

WHAT'RE YOU--

WHOA--

'SUP.

OH-- HEY, YOU.

stare

stare

HERE YA GO.

PRESS

UH, LIKE--

who, me?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RELATIVE'S PASS, YOU CAN'T GET IN THIS FAR.

GOOD THING I'M A GUARDIAN FOR A STUDENT HERE--

Looks surpris- ingly authen- tic...

chak

click

BECAUSE I AM A TEACHER, DO NG WHAT A TEACHER SHOULD. THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN AND PROTECTING THEM IS A MAJOR-- IF NOT MY CHIEF-- RESPONSIBILITY.

YOU'VE SETTLED INTO THE ROLE OF "TEACHER" PRETTY DANG FIRMLY THERE, HAVEN'T YOU.

AS I FIGURED-- AFTER THE TWINS.

JUST TO LET YOU KNOW, YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY PERSONAL OR EXCLUS VE ACCESS TO THEM.

click
chak
SO, IT'S OKAY, THEN?
WHAT? HUH?
HUH. REALLY.
Pfft! Ha Ha Ha!
I'M SURE IT'S A LOT EASIER TO PUT UP WITH THAN YOUR PERPETUALLY MESSY PLACE, HUH. HA!
I MEAN, IT MUST BE TOUGH FOR SHINJI-KUN TO PUT UP WITH, POOR GUY.
>sigh<
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU REALLY DO ANYTHING GUARDIAN-LIKE, ANYWAY.
YOU CAME.
YUP.
I FIGURED, I GOT TICKETS AND EVERY-THING.
IS THAT A FRIEND OF YOURS?
uh-huh
WAIT-- KAJI-SAN!
...
eep
HEYA~ SHINJI-KUN!

YOU--

I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET--

WHOA--

NICE TO MEET YOU.

I'M KAWORU NAGISA.

THAT'S THE GIRL FROM THE OTHER DAY...

FAMOUS? HOW?

WELL, YOU COULD SAY THEY'RE FAMOUS

THERE IN THE MIDDLE?

YEP.

MAKOTO DI NUOVO.

&
CECILIA DI NUOVO.

(DESPITE) BEING REALLY YOUNG, THESE TWINS ARE SERIOUS BUSINESS

WELL, THEIR PARENTS AN ITALIAN AND A JAPANESE ARE WORLD CLASS OPERA SINGERS, AND JUST LAST YEAR THEY TOOK EVERY AWARD IMAGINABLE AT AN INTERNATIONAL CHORAL AND VOCAL COMPETITION

I COULDN'T PRAY FOR A BETTER OPPOR-TUNITY THAN THIS.

I MEAN, THE PRESS WAS LINED UP FOR A MILE OUTSIDE OF THIS PLACE; YOU NOTICE THAT?

WOW-- THEY REALLY ARE SOMETHING SPECIAL, THEN.

...

WHA--?!

I THINK HE JUST LOOKED OVER HERE AT ME.

PFFT-- I'M JUST A STAGE-HAND.

OUR CLASS IS DOING A PERFORMANCE OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY.

THAT'LL BE COOL-- LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

RIGHT. WE OUGHT TO GET STARTED WITH PREPARATIONS HERE PRETTY QUICKLY.

SHINJI-KUN, AREN'T YOU DOING SOME SORT OF PERFORM-ANCE OR SOME-THING?

RIGHT, THEN, SO WHY'RE YOU TWO DOWN HERE AGAIN?

oh!

WE WERE ASKED TO CHECK IN AND SEE HOW THINGS WERE PROCEED-ING.

JUST GIVE IT YOUR BEST, YOU TWO! BREAK A EG.

ぽ pat

pat

!

ぽ blush

I GUESS HE'S NOT AS BAD OF A PARENTAL GUARDIAN AS I THOUGHT HE'D BE.

WHA--?

I'M-- I'M SO SORRY.

WE WERE JUST GOING THROUGH SOME PRACTICE AND SHE SPRAINED HER ANKLE...

THIS ISN'T GOOD. WITHOUT AN ANGEL TO PERFORM THE ANNUNCIATION OF CHRIST, THIS WON'T REALLY BE A PLAY ABOUT THE NATIVITY.

ASUKA?

WE CAN *STILL* DO THIS!

HOLD ON A SECOND, SENSEI.

"d Holy Ghost shaL cum upon thee LOL."

OF COURSE, THE WAY KIDS ARE *THESE* DAYS, PROBABLY JUST HAVING GABRIEL TEXT MARY WOULD BE FINE. WE'LL JUST DO A QUICK REWRITE.

trot!

WHA-- C'MON!

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SHOW THAT MUG OF YOURS, AND I MEAN, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE JUST STANDING THERE AND DOING NOTHING, RIGHT?

AND HERE YOU GO, SHINJI!

REI! YOU SAT THROUGH A COUPLE OF THE PRACTICE RUNS AND SAW THIS, SCENE DIDN'T YOU?

JUST GO THROUGH HERE AND MEMORIZE ANY LINES THAT HAVE A RED LINE UNDER THEM. YOU HAVE AN HOUR.

flap!

HUH?

BUT-- I'M THE HORSE.

Jo

HUH? UH, IT'S A RUN-NING GAG.

WHAT'S ALL THIS "MISSION" TALK?

gulp

WELL, UH, I'M NOT SURE THAT SAYING IS REALLY APPLICABLE HERE, IT'S NOT A MISSION--

PIPE DOWN! AS LONG AS I HAVE BREATH IN MY BODY, FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION-- GOT IT?

THINGS LIKE THIS OCCUR NATURALLY! ACCIDENTS ACCOMPANY MISSIONS, AS THEY SAY, AND BESIDES, IF WE CAN'T THINK OUR WAY OUT OF A LITTLE PROBLEM LIKE THIS, HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO GET ANYTHING DONE AT ALL, HUH?

OKAY, IN ALL SELFLESSNESS, I REALLY THINK THAT ASKING AYANAMI TO *MEMORIZE* THOSE LINES IN UNDER AN HOUR IS--

LUNGE

re-ally

but... I'm the horse...

THIS IS-- MY MISSION?

IP⇒ IP⇒

flip flip

WHOA-- MISATO-SENSEI, YOU'RE ACTUALLY DRINKING THE KOOL-AID HERE, TOO?

WELL, IT IS REI, AFTER ALL. IT MIGHT JUST WORK.

I UNDER-STAND. LET'S DO THIS.

10

thwop

THAT'S RIGHT.

WHATEVER LITTLE ACCIDENTS MIGHT HAPPEN, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THE WORD "FAILURE" DOESN'T REGISTER IN OUR VOCABULARY, GOT IT?

she fell for it.

AYANAMI! DON'T FALL FOR IT! DON'T FALL FOR--

IKARI-KUN.

hmm...

HUH?

ONCE I'VE COMPLETED THIS "MISSION," THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

HARK!

HARK!

BLESSED ARE THEE. AS THE LORD IS WITH THEE.

FOR THOU SHALL BECOME WITH CHILD...

...AND YOU SHALL GIVE THE NAME OF JESUS TO THE HENCE-BORN.

OF WHATEVER DO YOU SPEAK? AS I AM NOT MARRIED NOR BETROTHED, BUT VIRGINAL IN BODY AND SPIRIT.

FEAR NOT, MARY...

...FOR THOU HAST RECEIVED A GIFT FROM THE LORD.

FOR HE SHALL BE THE KING OF KINGS, AND VOICES WILL PRAISE HIM, CALLING HIM THE SON OF GOD.

AND THE LORD OUR GOD SHALL GIVETH UNTO HIM THE THRONE OF THE GREAT IN THE NAME OF HIS FATHER, DAVID.

AND HE SHALL RULE OVER THE HOUSE OF DAVID FOR ALL OF ETERNITY, WITHOUT END.

backstage

WOW...

BOTH OF THEM ARE SO PRETTY!

THEY'RE NOT BAD!

ONCE SHE GETS THE WORD "MISSION" IN HER HEAD, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT IS--YOU CAN JUST EXPECT IT WILL BE EXECUTED PERFECTLY.

it

huh

SHE SHOULD HAVE JUST BEEN THE ANGEL THE ENTIRE TIME INSTEAD OF BEING RELEGATED TO BEING THE HORSE.

I MEAN, TO PULL ALL OF THAT OFF SO PERFECTLY WITH SUCH SHORT NOTICE AND LITTLE PRACTICE.

AYANAMI JUST LOOKS-- BEAUTIFUL.

WHAT'S MORE--

huh?

SHE--IT--IT COULDN'T BE... THAT--?!

AND SPEAKING OF THAT, I WONDER WHAT SHE NEEDED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT LATER?

OKAY EVERYONE, GET READY FOR THE NATIVITY SCENE!

OKAY!

CONF--
CONFESS
HER--

COULD THIS
MEAN SHE'S
GOING TO--

dreamy eyes

flushed cheeks

wobble

BONK

BONK...

loom

WHAT'RE
YOU STARING
AT, HUH?
YOU'RE UP
NOW, TOO!
NOW GO
BREAK A LEG!

whap

OOF!

...SMASH!

You
gotta
be kid-
ding
me.

KYAAAA!

OH,
NO!
THE
SET!
IT'S
CRASH-
ING
DOWN--

THERE SHE IS!

IKARI-KUN.

Why is it my fault?

sigh

punched by Asuka

(highly unnatural)

OH, AYANAMI! GREAT WORK OUT THERE! I MEAN, YOU PERFORMED YOUR PART ABSOLUTELY PERFECTLY!

OH YEAH, SO, RIGHT~ YOU MENTIONED A BIT BACK YOU HAD SOMETHING TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?

UM...

IKARI-KUN. WELL, I~

YEAH, YOU WHAT?

zoooom!

THIS IS IT!!

I REALLY LOVE--

pop!

zoooom

THAT.

ME, TOO! I FEEL THE SAME WAY AS YOU, AYANAMI!

YEAH, THAT.

THE HORSE HEAD?

GREAT JOB OUT THERE, REI.

SENSEI~

SO, YOU DON'T MIND IF I TAKE THAT WITH ME, THEN?

WELL, I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT LIKE THAT--I DON'T NOT LIKE IT, OR...

YOU LIKE HORSEPLAY TOO, IKARI-KUN?

UM, I GUESS NOT. I MEAN, IT'S NOT REALLY MINE TO GIVE, SO, UH--

222...

I WONDER WHAT SHE'LL DO WITH IT. STRANGE. AS USUAL.

um, like... uh...

MAY I TAKE THE HORSE HEAD?

WHY NOT? I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY, SINCE WE HAVE NO USE FOR IT ANYMORE.

THEREAFTER, IT WAS RUMORED THAT THERE WAS A SHORT TIME WHEN IT WAS CONSIDERED COOL TO WEAR HORSE-HEAD MASKS DURING CLASS AT THE NERV ACADEMY. THE REPORTS, HOWEVER, REMAIN LARGELY UNCONFIRMED TO THIS DAY.

Perplexed.

...huh?

CRACK!

Ah—!

REI! OKAY, REI, ENOUGH— TAKE THAT OFF!

HEY! ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME?

YOU CAN TAKE A NAP AND NO ONE WILL KNOW.

THAT'S NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL—

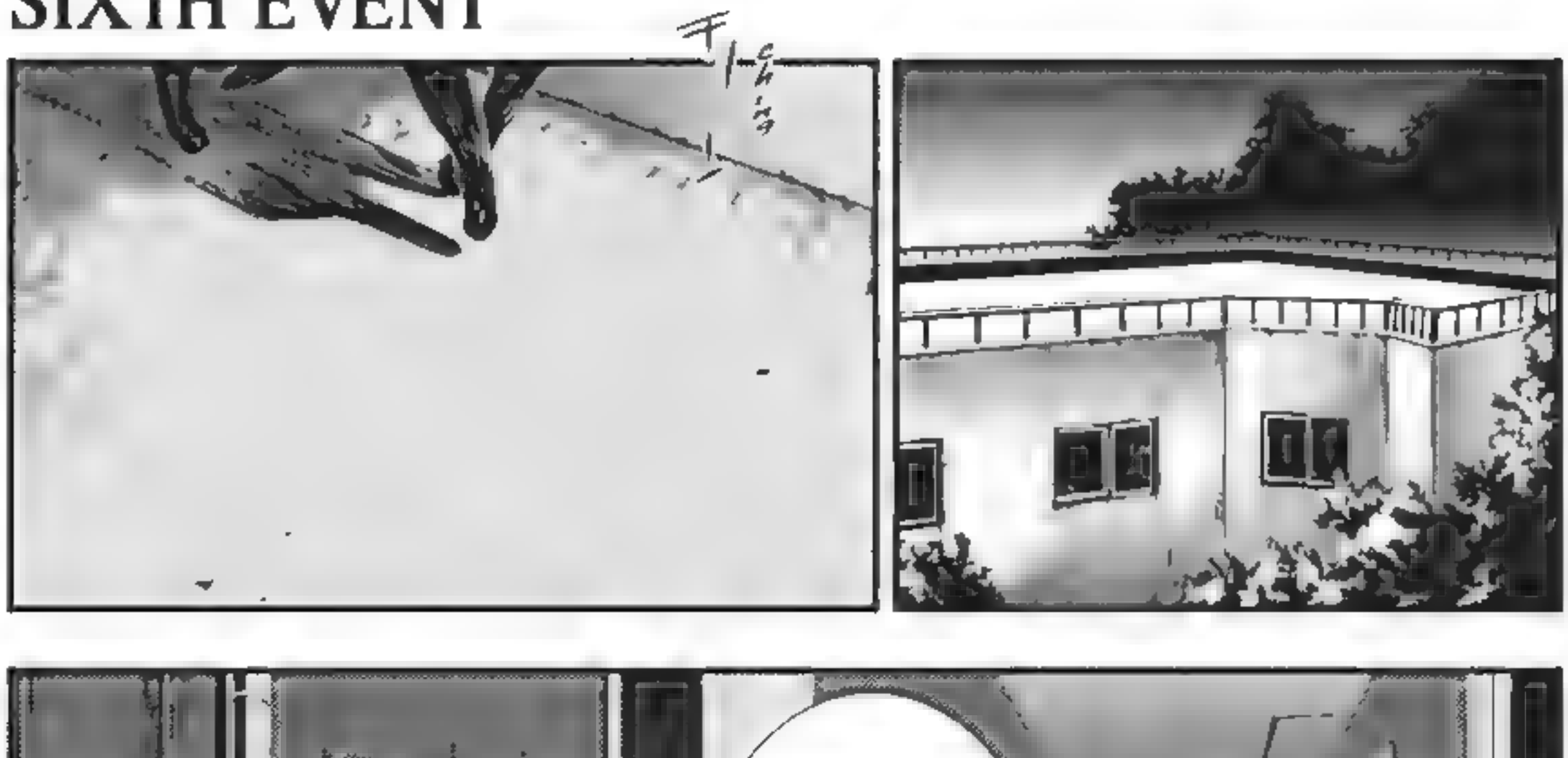
ASLEEP.

4:23.0

END

OUR FATHER
IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR
NAME.
YOUR KINGDOM COME.
YOUR WILL BE DONE ON
EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US
TODAY
OUR DAILY BREAD.
FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS.
AS WE ALSO HAVE
FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO
TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM
THE EVIL ONE.
FOR YOURS IS
THE KINGDOM
AND THE POWER
AND THE GLORY FOREVER.
AMEN.

SIXTH EVENT



ARAEL AND RAMIEL HAVE FALLEN TO THEIR HUNT.

WE'RE THE ONLY REMAINING ANGELS, NOW.

BUT I'D ALSO SAY THAT WE'RE HARDLY IN A POSITION TO ATTACK AT THE MOMENT.

WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE WITH OUR ARMS FOLDED, WATCHING, ANY LONGER.

I THINK THAT WE MIGHT HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED THEM.

THE INFORMATION THAT I BRING IS ONLY WHAT I CAN GATHER AROUND THE SCHOOL, BUT I'D STILL PREFER NOT TO JUST RUSH INTO THINGS THAT WILL BRING US NOTHING BUT GRIEF.

WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE WITH YOUR FINGER ON THE PULSE AND YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE AT THAT SCHOOL-- WHAT IF WE LOWERED OUR HEADS, PUT OUR HORNS FORWARD, AND JUST WENT BALLISTIC, HUH?

BUT IT'S NOT REALLY AN ISSUE WITH THE VESSEL AT ALL--USER ERROR, FROM THE GET-GO.

WE JUST KEEP GETTING PUSHED AND PUSHED--WELL, I SAY IT'S TIME WE SNAP BACK AND BUST THEM DOWN ONCE AND FOR ALL.

RIGHT, SO WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO LIVE LIKE ROACHES FROM HERE ON OUT, SCURRYING AROUND IN THE SHADOWS AND ONLY REALLY ABLE TO MOVE AT NIGHT? YEAH, I'LL PASS ON THAT.

YOU SHOULD'VE CONSIDERED "TAKING" A MORE INTELLECTUALLY POTENT VESSEL, YOU KNOW THAT?

YEAH, WELL, DON'T THINK THAT I JUST WANNA GET OUTSIDE AND START DESTROYING STUFF--COUNT ME OUT ON THAT.

I AM NOW CERTAIN OF WHAT I ONCE FELT--THAT THERE ARE OTHER ANGELS PRESENT IN THAT SCHOOL.

THUMP

SCRAPE

HA

THE HELL DID YOU JUST SAY? HUH!?

ENOUGH, ZERUEL, ISRAFEL.

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU THAT MY LITTLE SISTER WOULDN'T BECOME INVOLVED.

AND ISRAFEL, AS FAR AS YOJR, WELL, "PARTNER" AND SOURCE OF INFOR-MATION IS CON-CERNED--

HOWEVER, SINCE WE ALREADY OCCUPY BODIES, OUR MEANS OF INFILTRATING ARE NOW LIMITED.

ゴロゴロ rub rub

WOW-- THEN YOU'VE REALLY GOTTEN INTO THIS.

IF WE CAN'T DO IT FROM THE OUTSIDE, WE CAN ALWAYS JUST ATTACK FROM THE INSIDE.

I MEAN, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL, REALLY? AS LONG AS YOU WORK THAT MUCH HARDER...

AS FOR ME--

THERE ARE SOME STUDENTS, AFTER ALL.

--I THINK I WANT WHAT WE ALL DO--NOT TO JUST SIT AROUND AND WAIT TO BE HUNTED DOWN.

AS ALL WE WISH FOR IS TO LIVE A PEACEFUL EXISTENCE.

SIXTH EVENT

perk

flop

YEAH?

SO, UH, KAJI-SAN...

IT JUST SEEMS THAT, WELL, RECENTLY, YOU'VE BEEN AT THE HOUSE AN AWFUL LOT, SO...

きょとん blink

I MEAN, IS EVERY-THING OKAY AT WORK?

IT'S JUST THAT RIGHT NOW, IT'S EASIER AND BETTER FOR ME TO BE AT HOME.

SO THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING ABOUT ME, HUH?

OH, THAT— WELL, IT'S NOT THAT THERE ARE ANY PROBLEMS WITH WORK OR ANYTHING,

AND FIRST OFF TODAY, NEWS ABOUT THE RECENT STRING OF BOMBINGS.

BECOMING EVER MORE FREQUENT, THESE INCIDENTS ARE...

SINCE THOSE INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING FAIRLY CLOSE TO HOME AND, WELL, THEY'RE A PRETTY EASY STORY TO COVER, I THOUGHT I'D JUST DO MOST OF THE WORK HERE. IT'S NEWS PEOPLE WANNA HEAR AND IT'S IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

thinking

IT JUST FEELS LIKE REALITY IS SO FAR FROM WHAT I ONCE BELIEVED IT TO BE.

IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU WHILE YOU WERE UNDER MY CARE WHILE YOUR POPS IS OVERSEAS, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LOOK HIM IN THE EYE.

SO, YEAH, SHINJI-KUN, I THINK YOU'D BE BETTER OFF KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR THINGS, AND GET HOME EARLIER THAN YOU USUALLY WOULD.

Flap

CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT OUR INVOLVEMENT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS, THOUGH.

BJT WE HAVEN'T EN-COUNTERED ANY ANGELS SINCE THAT NIGHT.

RIGHT, I'LL BE CAREFUL.

AND IT'S REALLY HARD. SINCE KAJI-SAN IS IN THE BUSINESS OF NEWS, I HAVE TO MAKE SURE NOT TO GET CAUGHT.

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN NUMEROUS PLEAS TO THE POLICE FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING MISSING PERSONS.

AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I HAVEN'T BEEN DEPLOYED ON ANY "MISSIONS" SINCE THEN.

--POLICE ARE CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF SEVERAL CITIZENS' DISAPPEARANCES AND THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THEY ARE RELATED TO THE RASH OF BOMBINGS.

AND, ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS TAKEN FROM NEAR THE SCENE OF THE EXPLOSIONS—

CRASH

SHINJI-KUN?

SHINJI-KUN, WHAT'S WRONG?

huh?

GET HIM, SHINJI!

STOP HIM!

AH-- RIGHT, I'M IN CLASS RIGHT NOW.

grin

whizz

squeak

?!

CLOCK

SHREEEET!

FOUL! ON RED, NUMBER THREE!

IDIOT...

Aw, shit.

YEAH, I'M FINE.

SORRY ABOUT THAT. YOU OKAY?

THAT WAS SURPRISING.

FIGURED FOR SURE I'D CUT THROUGH HIS D.

BLACK NUMBER NINE, TO THE STRIPE.

bounce

bounce

glance

KAWORU-KUN HAS SOME LIGHTNING REFLEXES ON HIM--

WHY ON EARTH WOULD SOMEONE AS UNATHLETIC AS ME BE ABLE TO COMMAND AN EVA?

...

FWEEEEE

swish!

STUDY HALL IN COMPUTER CLASS NEXT PERIOD! RIGHT ON!

TIME TO GET A LITTLE GAMING IN THERE, EH? HA HA.

KAWORU-KUN, THAT'S A NASTY COURT BURN THERE ON YOUR ARM.

WHA--HUH. WHADDAYA KNOW.

YOU DON'T WANT THAT GETTING INFECTED OR SOME-THING--

--Y'KNOW?

I'M SO SORRY, MAN! THAT MUST HAVE HAPPENED WHEN WE CRASHED INTO EACH OTHER...

MAYBE WE SHOULD HEAD TO THE SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE AND GET IT CHECKED OUT, HUH?

HUH? NAH, IT'S REALLY NOT...

GOTCHA. YEAH, I'LL GET IT LOOKED AT.

JUST LIKE THAT TIME--

CLASSIC ME, GETTING PEOPLE HURT ALL THE TIME.

sigh

KUH--

WAIT--
WHAT--!?

WHAT--

OH, UH--
NOTHING.
NOTHING'S
WRONG.

WHAT?

'SUP, NAGISA.

clap

I MEAN, EVEN AYANAMI WAS BANDAGED UP FOR A BIT THERE.

MAYBE HE HAS ABNORMALLY FAST HEALING?

FOR HAVING SO MUCH BLOOD POUR OUT OF HIM IT WASN'T THE WORST OF WOUNDS, AS HE SAID...

BUT NOT EVEN A SCAR? REALLY?

YEAH, THAT GAME'S GREAT. HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS? SUZUHARA?

JUST WONDERING IF YOU'RE CAUGHT UP IN THAT HOT NEW GAME, "APOCALYPSE OF NIGHT"?

A FALLEN ANGEL.

TABRIS.

WHAT'S YOUR AVATAR'S NAME AND CLASS, NAGISA?

HELL YEAH. I'M A SPEAR-MAN! LEVEL 42!

What? Why are you asking me about this...?

...I'M NOT REALLY INTO GAMES ALL THAT MUCH.

ONLINE GAMES HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY POPULAR AT OUR SCHOOL RECENTLY.

A-- A FALLEN ANGEL? THAT'S SOME HARDCORE LEET THERE--YOU MUST BE PRETTY INTO THAT GAME TO GET ACCESS TO THAT RARE CLASS.

HEYA, SHINJI! YA OUGHTA TRY IT, TOO!

WE COULD GROUP UP! MAKE A TEAM!

ha ha

...THEN NO WAY.

Oh, if ***that's*** *why you want me in...*

W-WHAT?

DUDE, IF YOU JOIN UP WIT' US, SO WILL NAGISA, AN' THEN WE CAN *PWN NOOBZ* 'CAUSE HIS CLASS IS ***TOTALLY BADASS.***

EVEN THOUGH YOU TREATED HIM LIKE A LEPER BEFORE...

BUT WAIT, YOU HAVE TO BE LEVEL 50 OR HIGHER TO USE THAT, RIGHT?

WOW, PEOPLE ARE REALLY INTO THAT GAME.

SHIT! THAT'S RIGHT! DAMN!

A GUNGNIR? TOTALLY! DO NEED! THANKS, NAGISA-SAMA.

Dude, that's a rare item!

OH, SUZUHARA, YOU'RE A SPEARMAN, TOO? I HAVE AN EXTRA GUNGNIR IF YOU NEED IT~

FOURTH PERIOD
STUDY HALL

GOD, THIS IS BORING.

BOTH TOJI AND KENSUKE ARE WRAPPED UP IN THAT GAME...

KENSUKE! KENSUKE!

RIGHT!

WHAT?

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH...

...I DIDN'T THINK THAT KAWORU-KUN WAS INTO ONLINE GAMES—HE JUST DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE.

tap tap tap tap tap tap

CLICK

AND THERE YOU GO.

GONNA SEND YOU THE LINK.

boop

A WHILE BACK, YOU WERE TELLING US ABOUT THE PROPHECY OF THE MAGI, AND MENTIONED A WEBSITE WHERE YOU FOUND IT~

NO WORRIES. HOLD ON.

WOW, THAT WAS QUICK!

THANK YOU!

chakka

chakka

http://www.e

OH--

THERE IT IS.

THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY INFORMATION OUT THERE ABOUT US OR WHAT WE'RE DOING, AND IT WOULD BE A NIGHTMARE IF SOME OF THAT WERE TO GET OUT.

αρκνεσσ

それは善良なる人類への遺産

WHAT THE...

HUH. EVEN THOUGH ALL THOSE SUCCESSIVE EXPLOSIONS HAPPENED AND PEOPLE WENT MISSING AND ALL THAT, NONE OF THAT IS EVEN MENTIONED ON THIS SITE.

HEY, UH, KAWORU-KUN. YOU KNOW THIS SITE?

WE MADE THAT SITE.

SURE.

YEAH, WELL, TO BE PRECISE, SOMEONE IN THE ORGANIZATION MADE IT.

WAI-- WHAT? YOU GUYS? KAWORU-KUN?!

Organization...?

HUH-- WOW-- REALLY.

!

IT'S BASICALLY A SMALL PROP TO MOVE OUR "PRODUCTION," SO I WOULDN'T GET TOO WORKED UP OVER IT.

WE MADE TH S AND K NDA PLANTED A SEED, LETTING A LITTLE INFORMATION OUT THERE TO SEE IF ANYTHING WOULD "HOOK" AND WE COULD REEL IN SOME INFORMATION.

WELL, BASICALLY, WE HAD NO IDEA WHERE ANY OF THE ANGELS WERE, AND INFORMATION WAS, WELL, LIMITED, SO~

WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER, OKAY?

LIKE, THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE US THAT DO WHA--

OKAY, SO WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "ORGANIZATION"?

Mmph!

THAT MAKES SENSE-- WE'RE AT SCHOOL NOW.

RIGHT.

THERE'S NO WAY--

--ANYONE KNOWS OR WOULD UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS.

BUT THE REALITY IS--

THOSE EXPLOSIONS WERE JUST "INCIDENTS," AND IF THOSE PEOPLE THAT WENT MISSING EVENTUALLY SHOW UP, WELL, IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S BUSINESS.

BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE DYING OUT THERE.

gulp

NO ONE KNOWS ABOUT THIS. THEY HAVE NO IDEA.

SERIOUS

REALLY, THOUGH, TO EVERYONE ELSE--

ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF THE ANGELS, OR WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IN THIS WORLD.

KAWORU-KUN...

...WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU PEOPLE?

END

OUR FATHER
IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR
NAME,
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE ON
EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US
TODAY
OUR DAILY BREAD.
FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,
AS WE ALSO HAVE
FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO
TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM
THE EVIL ONE.
FOR YOURS IS
THE KINGDOM
AND THE POWER
AND THE GLORY FOREVER.
AMEN.

SEVENTH EVENT

OH--

YEAH, PLEASE GET THE LUNCH SPECIAL FOR ME, OKAY?

WANT ME TO GO AHEAD AND BUY A MEAL TICKET FOR YOU, TOO?

OKAY.

I FORGOT MY PENCIL CASE--YOU HEAD ON DOWN TO THE CAFÉ WITHOUT ME WHILE I GO BACK AND GET IT.

OH, UH--

LIKE--

KAWORU-KUN.

GOT IT.

I THINK I'D ACTUALLY RATHER HAVE CURRY.

SWOOSH

YOU'RE--

MAKOTO DI NUOVO!

WHA-- WHAT THE--

WHAT'S AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER DOING IN THE MIDDLE-SCHOOL BUILDING?

HERE YOU GO.

...

OH, AND--

THANK Y--

HOW'D HE KNOW?

IT'S YOURS, RIGHT?

HUH? UH, YEAH.

--FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE NOT TO GET NEAR CES, GOT IT?

step step step

MAKOTO!

HUH?

CEASE? C'S?

YOU JUST DISAPPEARED THE SECOND I LOOKED AWAY-- I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO--

I FEEL LIKE I'M IN THE PRESENCE OF GREAT- NESS-- WHAT DO I DO?

RIGHT-- CECILIA-CHAN, WASN'T IT?

Oh...

HELLO.

smile

blush

OH-

jump

WHAT?

WHAT THE HECK IS-

MI DISPIACE!*

*I'M SORRY!

BE

CES!

20000m

spin

mince

Wonder what I said to make her take off like that.

gloom

gloom

CES, YOU CAN'T JUST HEAD BACK BY YOURSELF!

THAT WAS SCARY --!!

thud thud thud

CES!

fwp

whew

I CAN'T SAY THAT I BLAME HER FOR BEING SCARED, I MEAN, IF THAT HAPPENED TO ME--

--I'D BE SCARED, TOO.

THEY SAY THAT READING WHILE YOU EAT IS BAD FOR DIGESTION.

WHAT AM I SAYING— I'M STILL SCARED!

IT APPEARS TO BE SOME SORT OF "RECORD OF ADOLESCENT DEVELOP-MENT."

I SEE-- IT IS INTEREST-ING?

NOTHING THAT POPS OUT AT ME AS BEING DOWNRIGHT STRANGE OR ANYTHING, BUT YEAH, WHATEVER.

Let's chow down!

I ALWAYS SEE YOU WITH A BOOK, BUT WHAT IS IT YOU'RE ACTUALLY READING?

SLIDE

TODAY AT EIGHT P.M., WE'RE GO-NG TO BE UNDER-TAKING EVA AL GNMENT AND ADJUSTMENTS, AS WELL AS GOING OVER EXERCISES AND SIMULATIONS AT DRILL-PRACTICE LOCATION FIVE--

IT'S NOT REALLY THAT INTERESTING, THEN. SO, YEAH, UH, WE GETTING TOGETHER TODAY?

ASUKA!

I TOLD YOU TO JUST TEXT ME ANY AND ALL INFORMATION ABOUT THAT, RIGHT?

OKAY, JUST STOP!

ABOUT THE MEETING TONIGHT--

(AND WOW, HER BENTO IS GOOD.) ANYWAY, WHAT'S UP?

NO CHOICE, REALLY, SINCE HIKARI WENT HOME SICK WITH A COLD.

ODD SEEING YOU HERE IN THE CAFE-TERIA.

I'LL PASS.

YEAH, BUT I THOUGHT SINCE YOU WERE HERE YOU MIGHT WANNA HAVE LUNCH WITH US AND WE COULD--

I JUST WANNA LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AS A NORMAL STUDENT, BEING BRANDED AS NOTHING BUT, WELL, NORMAL.

IF I HANG AROUND WITH YOU, I MIGHT WIND UP BRANDED AS A WUSSY FREAK LIKE THE REST OF YOU.

AREN'T YOU GONNA ASK IKARI-KUN TO COME WITH US?

THAT'S KINDA WEIRD TO SAY, SINCE SHE'S ALWAYS JOCKEYING FOR ATTENTION.

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID ABOUT HER SITUATIONAL AWARENESS-- WE'D ALL BE BETTER OFF TO BE MORE LIKE HER IN THAT WAY, AT LEAST.

TALKING ABOUT THE MEETING TONIGHT.

I FIGURED HE'D SHOW UP AFTER HE FINISHED UP WHATEVER HE HAD TO DO. HE IS A LITTLE LATE.

WHY?

I THINK IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THAT, TO BE HONEST.

Oh yeah--

I MEAN, HE HAS AN EVA AND EVERY-THING.

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I FIRST THOUGHT, TOO.

BUT IT APPEARS THAT HE LACKS PATIENCE AT THIS POINT.

GENUINELY THINK THAT HE LETS HIS EMOT ONS WRAP HIM UP-- LIKE A NOOSE, THE MORE HE STRUGGLES, THE HARDER HE CHOKES.

THE STRONGEST AND MOST DANGEROUS OF EMOTIONS IS PREVALENT WITH HIM--AND THAT'S *FEAR.*

I CAN'T FAULT HIM FOR THAT; IT'S A COMPLETELY NORMAL REACTION AND EMOTIONAL RESPONSE FOR SOMEONE WITH THIS THRUST UPON HIM.

BUT I BELIEVE THAT IT'S THAT FAULT THAT WON'T ALLOW HIM FULL CONTROL OF HIS EVA.

HE'S UNABLE TO GRASP THE TRUTH OF WHAT'S HAPPENING, BEING FROM THE "OUTSIDE," UNLIKE US.

AND SHOWING HIM WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON WOULD ONLY CAUSE HIS FEAR TO INCREASE EXPONENTIALLY AND STRANGLE HIM.

— IT'S HARD TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS WITH SHINJI-KUN ON OUR SIDE AS HE IS AT THE MOMENT.

TRUTH-FULLY—

I THINK WHAT ASUKA SAYS IS NOT UNWARRANTED. WE HAVE SOMETHING LIKE A HERETICAL EXISTENCE IN THE EYES OF OUTSIDERS.

YEAH.

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, IT'S NOT LIKE THERE IS ANY OPPOSITION TO IT.

WELL, NO ORDERS HAVE BEEN DISPENSED FROM COMMAND EITHER WAY.

BUT WHY NOT?

THAT NIGHT, YOU KNEW THAT HE WAS FOLLOWING US ALL ALONG, AND YOU DID NOTHING TO STOP IT THEN. SO WHY NOW?

IT'S SOMETHING THAT HE COULDN'T AVOID FOREVER, SO MAYBE IT'S LIKE GETTING HIS FEET WET. EASING INTO IT.

AND EVEN MORE IMPOR-TANTLY--

IF WE ATTEMPT TO PULL HIM INTO TH S AGAINST HIS WILL, AND IF IT'S NOT FROM HIS OWN VOLIT ON, THE CHANCE OF H S MENTAL STATE DETERIORATING WILL INCREASE, AND THAT, IN TURN, WILL LOWER HIS CHANCES OF ESTABLISHING CONTROL OVER-- AND BEING ACCEPTED BY-- HIS EVA.

AND IF HE'S GOING TO BE INVOLVED ANYWAY, IT'S BETTER NOT TO FORCE HIM.

HE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT AT SOME POINT, SOONER OR LATER.

--WHETHER GROWING INTO THE ROLE AND FIGHTING UNDER HIS OWN WILL, OR CONVERSELY, DECIDING TO SIDELINE HIMSELF AS A "SPARE"...

...IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT HE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE FOR HIMSELF.

THAT'S REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT?

WHY WOULD-- WELL...

WELL...

WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?

AH, WELL, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT, THEN.

BUT IT'S INTERESTING THAT YOU'RE TAKING AN INTEREST IN OTHERS.

MUST BE ONE OF THE EFFECTS OF "THAT."

HMM, NOT SURE WHY.

I'M SORRY, I DON'T REALLY KNOW. THAT JUST SLIPPED OUT.

I DON'T KNOW~ IS IT REALLY NECESSARY THAT I KEEP TRYING TO EXPLAIN MYSELF REGARDING THIS? I MEAN--

NAH, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I WAS JUST PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN HOW YOU THINK-- AND YEAH, I GUESS YOU COULD CHALK THAT UP TO "INTEREST," TOO.

NOT SURE IF I'D SAY IT'S BECAUSE OF AN INTEREST, BUT...

SINCE I'M ONLY CONCERNED WITH FOLLOWING THE COMMANDER'S ORDERS --

--I SUPPOSE I AM SATISFIED WITH THE SITUATION AS LONG AS I COMPLETE THOSE ORDERS WITHOUT ANY DELAY OR HESITATION.

LOOKS LIKE THERE'S STILL A LITTLE SCAR THERE.

DID IT HURT?

FEELING PAIN, GIVEN THE INJURY, WAS A NORMAL EXPERIENCE, I BELIEVE.

HA-- THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, SILLY!

IT MIGHT NOT HURT TO THINK AND ANSWER FOR YOURSELF EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

BUT AS LONG AS YOU'RE ACTUALLY FEELING YOUR OWN PAIN, I GUESS THINGS ARE OKAY.

YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, A ROOKIE, IN A WAY.

OH, RIGHT-- HOLD ON A SEC-LET ME GET WHAT I OWE YOU--

FORGET IT. THIS TIME, IT'S ON ME.

HERE YA GO.

MEAL TICKET CURRY ¥420

MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU NEVER JOINED US AT LUNCH, SO I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. EVERYTHING OKAY?

JUST HAD SOME STUFF COME UP--

YEAH, 'S ALL RIGHT.

flinch

RIGHT. THANKS AGAIN.

IT'S ALL GOOD. YOU CAN JUST USE IT TOMORROW, ANYWAY.

LIKE FIZZING POP ROCKS OR SOMETHING-- BUILDING UP LIKE FOAM COMING TO A HEAD--

LIKE A HAZE--

THAT'S BOTH THERE AND NOT.

THAT WAS A REALLY STRANGE FEELING.

WHOA.

A FEELING THAT I REMEMBER FROM SOMEWHERE.

HAHA HA HAHAHA HA HAHA!

WHAT! WHAT'S SO GODDAMNED FUNNY!

LOOK, JUST SO YOU KNOW, I'M NOT REALLY DOWN WITH THE WAY YOU GUYS IS HANDLIN' THINGS ANYMORE...

SO FUGGEDDIT; FROM NOW ON, COUNT ME OUT!

WHAT DO YOU WANT THEN, HUH? MONEY? IS IT MONEY?

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, MY WALLET'S FAT AN' HAPPY. BESIDES, AS MUCH AS I HATE TO DO THINGS BY THE BAD-GUY BOOK...

YOU MORON. WHAT, YOU THINK THAT IN AN ORGANIZATION LIKE THIS, YOU CAN JUST GO WALTZIN' IN AND OUTTA HERE LIKE IT WAS SOME KINDA COUNTRY CLUB OR SOMETHIN'?

EVEN YOUNG PUNKS KNOW THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET OUT OF THE OPERATION. BUT I GUESS YOU THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL, HUH?

YOU WANNA GET OUT, IT'S *LIGHTS* OUT!

whip

spring

BLAM

...

AND AT THIS POINT I DON'T THINK I CAN REALLY SAY, "YEAH GUYS, I'M OUTTA HERE, IT'S BEEN REAL," EITHER

IF I HAD JUST USED MY BRAIN, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS HOW BAD OF AN IDEA GETTING INVOLVED WITH THIS EVA BUSINESS COULD BE.

flop

I JUST JUMPED RIGHT ON IN WITHOUT EVEN THINKING IT THROUGH. AWESOME JOB THERE, SHINJI.

BUT I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M REALLY CONTRIBUTING ANYTHING AT ALL RIGHT NOW. HECK, IT'S NOT LIKE THE OUTCOME WOULD HAVE BEEN ANY DIFFERENT IF I HADN'T BEEN THERE.

ADDING ME NOW DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE--/ I MEAN, AT THIS POINT I'M NOT MUCH MORE THAN A FIFTH WHEEL.

EVEN IF I WEREN'T AROUND--

WHAT MADE ME THINK THAT I COULD FIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WAS I JUST CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT? GUILT OVER KAWORU GETTING HURT?

MAYBE TO GET AYANAMI'S ATTENTION?

I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE GETTING HURT IN FRONT OF ME...

WHAT WAS I THINKING?

IN THE END, IT WAS PROBABLY A MIXTURE OF SOME OR ALL OF THOSE

REALLY, ALL I'M CAPABLE OF IS CLOSING MY EYES AGAINST STUFF THAT I DON'T WANT TO SEE.

ding dong

ding dong

WHO IN THE WORLD COULD THAT BE AT THIS HOUR?

rise

OH YEAH; KAJI-SAN'S NOT HERE TODAY. ALMOST FORGOT.

COMING CLOSER

WHO THE HELL COULD~

'SUP, MAN.

END

EIGHTH
EVENT

*120

beep

GUESS JUICE SOUNDS ALL RIGHT.

clang

COME TO THINK OF IT--

—I THINK IT WAS RIGHT HERE THAT I FIRST MET KAWORU-KUN AND THE REST.

I'M BACK--

gloom

KAWORU-KUN, I GOT YOU SOME JUICE. HOPE THAT'S--

SWOOSH

OH, SORRY.

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT-- I WASN'T REALLY UP TO ANYTHING, ANYWAY. HERE YOU GO, IF YOU WANT ONE.

JUST SHOWING UP LIKE THAT-- WITHOUT EVEN BRINGING SOME-THING ALONG-- I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT, MAN--

IT'S ASUKA.

SO, WHAT'S UP? SOMETHING HAPPEN?

YOU CAN BE A HARD ONE TO READ SOMETIMES, KAWORU-KUN.

SHE'S PROBABLY RIGHT--CRASHING WITH FRIENDS IS PRETTY NORMAL, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO DO IT IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.

REAL LY?

HUH...

SHE SAID THAT BETWEEN CLOSE FRIENDS, IT'S KIND OF A GIVEN THING TO STAY AT EACH OTHER'S HOMES ON WEEKENDS AND STUFF.

...

I GUESS I AM, THEN.

SO I AM WEIRD, AFTER ALL, HUH?

AH --!!

CHIME IN WITH "YOU'RE NOT WEIRD AT ALL," ANYT ME HERE...

BUT IT'S LIKE, I DON'T THINK IT'S BAD FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE ONE OR TWO WEIRD THINGS ABOUT THEM. IN FACT IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL.

I MEAN, I GET IT--

NO--

OH--

SERIOUSLY, DUDE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. ACTUALLY, I'M PRETTY HAPPY THAT YOU SHOWED UP TO HANG OUT WITH ME.

pat pat

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE A NAÏVE, CHILDISH SIDE OF HIM.

huh!

NAH, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
OH-- SORRY ABOUT THAT.
THAT REMINDS ME...
MY MOM USED TO PAT ME LIKE THAT, TOO, BEFORE SHE DIED.

FOR HIM, WORK AND LIFE ARE THE SAME THING.

BUT--

AND MY DAD'S BEEN SO BUSY WITH WORK THAT IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE SEEN HIM.

WELL--

DO YOU GET LONELY?

NO NO NO-- THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT! I JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE--YOU KNOW, I MEAN, PARENTS.

I KNOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING A LITTLE KID WOULD SAY BEFORE A TANTRUM. IT'S LAME.

WELL, YEAH, OF COURSE.

WAIT, WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BASI-CALLY WHAT I JUST SAID.

SORRY, I GET IT~ YOU AND I ARE IN THE SAME BOAT, I GUESS.

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. I MEAN, I HAVE NO NOTION OF "PARENTS" TO EVEN RELATE TO.

THEY WERE CONSIDERED UNNECESSARY FOR US--

--AND SCHOOL WAS IN THE SAME CATEGORY UNTIL JUST RECENTLY.

"INSIDE?"

--THE ONLY EDUCATION GIVEN TO US WAS THAT WHICH WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

WELL, WE WERE ALWAYS "INSIDE," SO--

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "UNNECES-SARY"?

YEAH.

"INSIDE."

TAP TAP

BE-CAUSE, LIKE I SAID, IT WAS CONSID-ERED UNNECES-SARY.

WHAT IN THE WORLD WOULD BE THE PURPOSE OF--

SO, IT'S THE SAME THING WITH ASUKA AND AYANAMI?

YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.

I THINK THAT ASUKA WENT TO SCHOOL FOR A BIT, THOUGH, BEFORE COMING TO JAPAN--NOT SURE, BUT . . .

"CON-
STRUC-
TED"...

...CHIL-
DREN...

"CON-
STRUCTED"
CHILDREN.

WE WERE
CREATED
WITH THE
SOLE
PURPOSE OF
STOPPING
THE
ANGELS.

THE CHILDREN OF THE ORGANIZATION ARE PRODUCTS OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION, FROM WOMBS NOT OF FLESH, BUT OF GLASS BEAKERS AND TEST TUBES.

SO, SUMMARILY, NO PARENTS.

AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE ONLY EXCEPTION TO THIS IS ASUKA, WHOSE PARENTS ARE APPARENTLY FROM THE ORGANIZATION.

NO WAY-- THAT'S--

BUT, SERIOUSLY~

THAT'D MAKE YOU AN EXCEPTION AS WELL, SHINJI-KUN.

YOU'RE LOST RIGHT NOW AREN'T YOU SHINJI-KUN? CONFUSED.

YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANYTHING.

I'M NOT—

I'M TOTALLY OUT—

WHAT YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW IS FEAR—

AND

snatch

OF COURSE I'M SCARED! WHO WOULDN'T BE?!

I MEAN, PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY *DYING* OUT THERE!

WHO KNOWS-- EVEN I MIGHT END UP DEAD!

SO YOU CAN'T JUST ACT LIKE IT'S SOME--

...

:
THINK YOU MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTANDING THINGS

I THINK THAT ASUKA MENTIONED IT, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WERE ACTUALLY CHOSEN FOR THIS.

THIS JUST HAPPENED TO BE WHERE YOU ENDED UP, SINCE YOU WERE AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME.

WHY, THOUGH?

WHY ME?

THE ANGELS WERE ALREADY WELL AWARE OF YOUR EXISTENCE.

AND IT'S NOT THAT I'M TRYING TO FORCE YOU INTO DOING SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT, BUT YOU'RE IN TOO DEEP NOW FOR US TO GET YOU OUT OF IT, EVEN IF WE WANTED TO.

NO, I'M NOT.

AND IT'S NOT SOME-THING I REALLY THINK ABOUT.

clench

WHAT ABOUT YOU, KAWORU-KUN?

AREN'T YOU SCARED?

THIS IS WEIRD.

NO, IT'S NOT THAT.

OH, BUT LET ME GUESS— MAYBE YOU DON'T FEEL FEAR BECAUSE THAT'S "UNNECESSARY" OR SOME SHIT, RIGHT?

WHAT? HOW CAN YOU NOT? I MEAN, JUST A WHILE BACK YOU GOT YOUR ASS HANDED TO YOU!

I MEAN, IT'S BECAUSE IT'S SOMETHING I CHOSE MYSELF.

WHAT?

ring-ring-ring

OH--

Oh--

SORRY, JUST A SEC.

ガチャ

HELLO?

WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU SKIPPING THE MEET-ING? HUH? WHAT? WELL?!

roar

GO!!

HUH?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHY?

I hope he's okay...

YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME. WHY YOU, AND WHY NOW?

I THOUGHT I'D CHECK IN ON--

HUH?! WHAT? WHY ON EARTH?

UM, I'M JUST OVER AT SHINJI-KUN'S HOUSE FOR--

HAND THE PHONE TO BAKA SHINJI FOR A SECOND.

WELL, I MEAN, I DID SAY THAT BUT--

YOU MUST HAVE LOST IT! WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME WHY, WHEN--

--IT WAS YOU WHO SAID WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE HIM OUT OF THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

SHINJI-KUN, ASUKA WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.

UH, NO THANKS. I'LL PASS.

THEN WHY DID I COME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WHAT SHE SAID IS TRUE, BUT...

WAIT, THEN...

LIKE, MAKING SURE ABOUT SHOWING UP TO SOME MEETING NEXT TIME, I GUESS?

WHAT'D ASUKA WANT TO TALK TO YOU FOR?

ASU--

NO. NOT NOW-- NO--

SHE HUNG UP ON ME.

NOTHING ELSE? JUST THAT?

SHE'S PRETTY SINCERE AND STRAIGHT ABOUT THINGS THOUGH, IN HER OWN WAY...

LISTENING SN'T EVEN AN OPTION FOR HER ONCE SHE LAUNCHES INTO A TIRADE LIKE THAT.

HA HA--

OH--

THAT'S RIGHT.

I GET IT-- IT'S JUST THAT I DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT THAT.

I'M THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO BE A LITTLE MORE SINCERE AND HONEST.

KAWORU-KUN?

I--I'D--

--BE REALLY HAPPY IF YOU WERE TO FIGHT BESIDE ME.

OKAY, I AM GOING TO KEEP THIS AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE.

YOU'RE FREE TO DO WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO.

HOW-EVER...

I SHOULD HAVE JUST SAID IT LIKE THIS FROM THE GET-GO.

END

OUR FATHER
IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR
NAME,
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE ON
EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US
TODAY
OUR DAILY BREAD.
FORGIVE US
OUR DEBTS,
AS WE
SO HAVE
FOR GIVEN
OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US
NOT INTO
TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM
THE
EVIL ONE.
FOR
YOURS IS
THE KINGDOM
AND THE POWER
AND THE GLORY FOREVER
AMEN.

NINTH EVENT

KAJI-SAN...

KAJI-SAN!

HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING NONSTOP SINCE LAST NIGHT?

DAMN-- YEAH. I GUESS I JUST PASSED OUT AT SOME POINT.

SHINJI-KUN?

IF YOU'RE GONNA SACK OUT, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO TO YOUR BED?

I STILL HAVE SOME TIME BEFORE I GOTTA GO TO SCHOOL, SO WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO MAKE SOME COFFEE OR SOME-THING?

THAT'D BE NICE.

WHERE'S YOUR FRIEND?

OH, HUH.

SERIOUSLY? YOU WALKED RIGHT BY HIM COMING IN WHEN HE HEADED HOME.

SO, THAT FRIEND OF YOURS~

~NAGISA-KUN, RIGHT? WHAT KINDA GUY IS HE?

lub-dub

WOW, HE'S IN A GOOD MOOD.

SO WHAT KINDA GUY IS HE?

--I KINDA WONDERED IF YOU WERE OKAY WITH HAVING HIM HERE.

YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE FRIENDS OVER THAT OFTEN, SHINJI-KUN, SO--

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "WHAT KINDA GUY"?

HE'S ALL RIGHT, I GUESS.

HE'S A PRETTY GOOD DUDE.

HE CAN BE WEIRD SOMETIMES, THOUGH.

IT'S JUST THAT NORMALLY HE'S SO GROUNDED AND REGIMENTED IN WHAT HE DOES THAT IT WAS WEIRD SEEING THAT SCATTERED SIDE OF--

OH WOW.

--YOU'D THINK THAT THE WORLD WAS GONNA END, WITH HOW DEPRESSED HE GOT ABOUT IT, EVEN THOUGH I REPEATEDLY TOLD HIM IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.

I SUPPOSE THE STRANGEST PART IS HIM JUST FORGETTING TO BRING A CHANGE IN THE FIRST PLACE, BUT WHATEVER.

LIKE, WHEN HE SHOWED UP TO SPEND THE NIGHT, HE CAME EMPTY HANDED... DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER TO BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, SO I LENT HIM SOME OF MINE, BUT, LIKE--

RIGHT. TAKE CARE.

SHOULD PROBABLY GET GOING FOR SCHOOL.

I SHOULD.

SHINJI-KUN.

YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR FRIENDS OVER MORE OFTEN.

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE I RECEIVED THAT LETTER FROM **HEAVEN** THAT SAID, "I WANT YOU TO TAKE OUR SON IN."

I LIKE WHAT I JUST SAW THERE.

IT USED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CONVER-SATION WITH HIM BACK IN THE DAY.

–AND I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP AS PURELY PROFESSIONAL– SUBORDINATE AND SUPERIOR– SO I HAD NO IDEA WHY ALL THIS WAS PUT ON ME.

FROM SOMEONE THAT I THOUGHT WAS DEAD– I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S ALIVE OR DEAD NOW– CAME A LETTER–

IN ADDITION TO THE LETTER, THERE WERE OTHER DOCU-MENTS, TELLING ME THE FACILITY WHERE SHINJI-KUN WAS LOCATED, AS WELL AS INSTRUC-TIONS FOR HIS EDUCATIONAL PATH, INCLUDING ENROLLING HIM AT NERV ACADEMY ONCE HE WAS A MIDDLE SCHOOLER.

THAT, AND A CHECK FOR MORE THAN ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER ALL THE EXPENSES THAT WOULD BE INCURRED BY RAISING HIM.

I MEAN, JUST WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT THAT RESEARCH FACILITY, GETTING KIDS WRAPPED UP IN ISSUES THAT MOST ADULTS COULDN'T HANDLE– HELL, THAT'D BE ENOUGH TO LAND A KID IN SOMEONE ELSE'S CARE.

I HADN'T SEEN HIM IN FIVE YEARS, AND THE ONCE-CHEERFUL FACE HAD BEEN WIPED CLEAN OF ALL EMOTION.

THE ONLY SAVING GRACE IS THAT SHINJI-KUN WAS TOO GODDAMNED YOUNG TO REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED BACK THEN.

IF THE ONE WHO SENT THAT LETTER IS EVEN ALIVE, HE SHOULD SHOW HIS FACE.

THAT TRAGEDY—

slide カラ カラ

I'VE ENTERTAINED THE IDEA OF LOOKING FOR HIS FATHER~ GENDO IKARI~ IF HE'S EVEN ALIVE, WHICH... WHO KNOWS.

AFTER LEAVING THE ORGANIZATION, I BECAME A REGULAR SALARYMAN, AND IT WAS WHEN I TOOK IN SHINJI-KUN THAT I BECAME A JOURNALIST.

THAT LAB ISN'T AROUND ANYMORE, AND THE SURVIVORS HAVE ALL GONE THEIR SEP-ARATE WAYS, TRYING TO MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR THEMSELVES BY EXCISING ELEMENTS OF THAT TRAGIC PAST.

flick

BUT--

--AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT IS IN MY CASE--

BUT STILL-- THAT KATSURAGI! WHY ON EARTH WOULD SHE BECOME A TEACHER?

...I GUESS I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S STILL TRULY TIED TO WHAT HAPPENED.

I KNOW THAT'S NOT HOW IT'S OVER BUT IT'S OVER FOR ME

AND

BUT, AS FAR AS I CAN REMEMBER HE WASN'T ON THE LIST OF SURVIVORS OF THAT INCIDENT.

OF ALL THE EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECTS, HE WAS EASILY THE MOST GIFTED.

THAT YOUNG BOY, NAVORU NAGISA—

NICE TO MEET YOU

I'M NAVORU NAGISA.

REALLY, THOUGH, I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE. MAYBE HE'S JUST REMINDING ME OF SOMEONE ELSE.

HE LOOKS SO FAMILIAR

AYANAMI!

BUT-- THERE HAVE STILL BEEN ALL THESE EXPLOSIONS ...AND THE PEOPLE WHO'VE GONE MISSING...

I'M PROBABLY WORRIED ABOUT A BUNCH OF STUFF THAT ISN'T EVEN CONNECTED. JUST WORRIED...

GOOD MORNING. WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A RUSH, ANYWAY?

)gasp(

I'M NOT-- I JUST DIDN'T THINK I'D RUN INTO YOU LIKE THIS, SO...

)wheeze(

IKARI-KUN.

GOOD-- GOOD MORNING!

WELL, I DIDN'T HAVE TO STOP BY H.Q. TODAY, SO--

H.Q.? AS IN HEAD-QUARTERS? OF THE ORGANI-ZATION?

DO YOU GO THERE EVERY DAY? SOUNDS ROUGH.

HUH. OKAY...

MEH. NOT REALLY.

WHY'RE YOU SO EARLY TODAY?

IS TODAY LIKE THE DAY YOU GET "OFF" OF GOING TO THE ORGANI-ZATION, OR SOMETHING?

I HAD HEARD THAT YOU LIVE PRETTY CLOSE TO ME, BUT SINCE I NEVER SEE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO SCHOOL, I WONDERED WHAT TIME YOU ACTUALLY HEAD OUT.

OH--! RIGHT!

I MEAN, NOT TRYING TO BE NOSY OR STALKERISH OR ANYTHING--BUT WAIT-- I GUESS THIS IS TECHN CALLY PRETTY NOSY--SO--UH--

JESUS, WHAT ON EARTH AM I SAYING?

IKARI-KUN.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? HAVE YOU DECIDED?

!

AYA-
NAMI--

ARE
YOU?

rumble

flap
flap
flutter

ARE YOU
GOING TO
FIGHT?
OR ARE
YOU GOING
TO QUIT?

WHAT THE...

AN EARTH-QUAKE?

KYAAA-!

LOOK OUT!

rumble

rumble

DID IT STOP?

huh?

I SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING MORE AND MORE FREQUENT LATELY, THE EARTH-QUAKES.

WHOA OMIGOD I'MSO SORRY OMG!!

WHOOOO-OOOA!

scoot

thump thump thump thump

WOW, SHE'S SKINNY.

reach

THANKS FOR PROTECT-ING ME...

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

SURE. NO PROB-LEM.

TIME?

SHE'S THAT SMALL AND THIN, AND YEAH, STILL MANAGES TO FIGHT LIKE NO OTHER

IT'S SAID THAT THE CONSTANTLY INCREASING STRAIN ON AND WARPING OF THIS DIMENSION IS WHAT'S CAUSING THEM.

I MEAN, WOW-- SHE'S REALLY PETITE.

I MEAN, FIGHTING ALL THOSE OTHER-WORLDLY BEASTS, GETTING INJURED ALL THE TIME...

WHY CONTINUE TO FIGHT WITH ALL THAT HAPPENING NONSTOP?

AYANAMI-- DO YOU EVER GET SCARED?

I--

FOLLOWING MY CHAT WITH KAWORU-KUN, IT MADE ME CONSIDER SOMETHING:

--I HAVE NOTHING BUT FIGHTING.

THERE IS NOTHING OUTSIDE OF THAT FOR ME.

I HAVE A MEANINGLESS EXISTENCE IF I DO NOT FIGHT. A PERSON'S EXISTENCE IS JUSTIFIED BY HOW SHE'S DEFINED.

RIGHT. JUST AS I SUS-PECTED-- THE SAME.

WHY HAVE I, MYSELF, CHOSEN TO FIGHT?

THE FEAR OF PAIN AND GETTING INJURED.

THE FEAR OF LOSING WHAT'S IMPORTANT.

THERE'S REI, AND ASUKA...

AND YOU, TOO.

WE ALL LIVE OUR LIVES, CARRYING ON WHILE FEAR RESIDES IN US.

AND ONLY THE WILL OF THE STRONG CAN INVOKE THE POWER OF THE EVA

AYANAMI.

PEOPLE OVERCOME THEIR FEARS, ONLY TO REALIZE THE SOURCE OF THEIR WILLS, THE PART THAT WINS, WAS ROOTED AND PROVOKED BY THOSE FEARS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THEY'LL CONTINUE TO FIGHT, AND CONTINUE TO GET HURT IN THE PROCESS.

I WILL NOT LOSE ALL THESE FRIENDS THAT I HOLD SO DEAR TO ME.

AND BECAUSE OF THAT, I CAN'T JUST SIT ON THE FENCE ANYMORE.

I'VE DECIDED THAT I WANT TO FIGHT, TOO.

I WANT TO BE ABLE TO LAUGH ALONGSIDE YOU ALL, NOW AND FOREVER.

IN
THIS
WORLD--

TOJI.

YO, TOJI!

hahh?

NAH, MAN, CAN'T GO. NO WAY.

STO-MACH HURTS. JUST GONNA WATCH.

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON SITTING AROUND LOOKING PUKEY, HUH? P.E. IS NEXT PERIOD--IT'S YOUR FAVORITE CLASS!

YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST PLAYING TOO MUCH OF THAT GODDAMNED GAME AND HAVEN'T SLEPT AT ALL. I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

SKIPPING SCHOOL TO GAME?

DUDE, IT'S P.E. WHO CARES.

LOOK AT KENSUKE~ THAT GUY SKIPS SCHOOL T' PLAY DA GAME ALL THE TIME. HE'S PROBABLY AT HOME DOIN' IT RIGHT NOW.

I DUNNO, PROBABLY. WHADDEVER.

I THINK I UNDER-STOOD ABOJT HALF OF THAT...

SHINJI-KUN! SUZJHARA-KUN!

sigh

BUT HE'S SHROUDED IN DIS PITCH-BLACK MIST, RIGHT? STRENGTH, STATS, TOTALLY OP COMPARED T' MOST AVATARS YA FACIN' IN REGULAR PLAY.

AN' HE'S RUMORED T' HAVE SOME SUPER EPIC RARE ITEM ON 'IM, SO I HAD T' TRY AN' TAKE 'IM DOWN, Y'KNOW?

SEE, THING ABOJT IT IS, DA COMPANY, DEY SPRING DESE REAL RARE MOBS ON YA FROM DA SERVER SIDE, Y'KNOW? ONE A' DEM JUST BUSTED IN AN STARTED MESSIN' ME UP.

OH, HEY, KAWORU-KUN.

IF YOU DON'T GET MOVING, WE'LL ONLY HAVE LIKE A MINUTE TO CHANGE.

grab

whoa!

WHOA-- WHOA THERE! WHAT'RE YOU--

NAGISA! DUDE!! I NEED YOU! YOU CAN TOTALLY ONE-SHOT THAT SUCKA! PLEASE, MAN, HELP ME OUT!

He's waaaay too into this.

NAH, IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN PLAYING FOR SO LONG, I BASICALLY GOT SICK OF IT.

WHA-AAAAT!?

YOU PROGRESS TO THE LEVEL OF FALLEN ANGEL AND YOU JUST GIVE UP?! WHAT A FREAKIN WASTE!

Oh--

YEAH, I QUIT PLAYING.

HE'S TALKING ABOUT THAT JACKED-UP ONLINE GAME, APO... APOWHAT-EVERITIS.

UH, LIKE--

P-leeeeease!

KAWORU-KUN?

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LAY OFF THAT GAME FOR A WHILE, SUZUHARA-KUN.

THERE'S A CHANCE THAT YOU MIGHT NOT MAKE IT BACK ONE OF THESE DAYS.

END

OUR FATHER
IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR
NAME,
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE ON
EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US
OUR DAILY
TODAY
FORGIVE US
OUR DEBTS,
AS WE
SO HAVE
FOR GIVEN
OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US
NOT INTO
TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM
THE
EVIL ONE.
FOR
RS IS
THE KINGDOM
AND THE
WER
AND THE
YFOREVER.
AMEN.

TENTH EVENT

ABOUT ONE MONTH EARLIER ...

HEY YOU. YOU THERE.

3 OR 30 NR

UH-- WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SORRY ABOUT THAT-- I'M NOT A WEIRDO OR ANY-THING.

OH, RIGHT-- HERE'S MY CARD.

YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR WITH US.

YOU INTO GAMES?

THAT GNX? *THE* GNX CORP., THE GAME COMPANY?

YEAH, YEAH, THAT GNX.

MIMORI, FROM GNX CORP.--?

WAIT--

HA-- THAT MAKES ME HAPPY TO HEAR.

AND EVEN THE NEWEST ONE THAT JUST CAME OUT.

OH MAN! I PLAYED ALL OF THE "CLAIMER DREAMER" SERIES! ALL OF THEM!

SORRY FOR JUST ASKING YOU THIS, HAVING JUST MET YOU AND ALL, BUT I'D LIKE TO ASK A BIG FAVOR.

YEAH, IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO-- YEAH! TOTALLY!

THAT'S FANTASTIC. WE'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

SO, WE'RE DEVELOPING THIS GAME RIGHT NOW, AND--

--WE'RE WONDERING IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE IT A LOOK. YOU'D BE WHAT WE CALL A MONITOR, BASICALLY A BETA TESTER.

MONI-TOR?

HH Thump

HH Thump

YEAH, BUT THERE'S PROBABLY SOME MONTHLY FEE OR OTHER CATCH THAT'LL HAVE ME PAYING IN THE END.

NO, NO-- NOT AT ALL.

BUT BY THE SAME TOKEN, WE CAN'T PAY YOU FOR YOUR TIME TESTING IT.

WELL, WE'RE TARGETING MIDDLE- AND HIGH-SCHOOL-AGE CONSUMERS FOR THIS GAME, SO WE THOUGHT IT'D BE BEST TO TAKE IT TO THE STREETS AND FIND THAT DEMOGRAPHIC, Y'KNOW?

IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO JUST HAND THIS OUT TO ANYONE? ISN'T THIS SECRET?

NO, NOT REALLY. OKAY, FOR EXAMPLE, YOU COULD INSTALL IT ON ALL THE COMPUTERS AT SCHOOL, AND THEN NO ONE WOULD KNOW, AND IT'D BE EASY FOR US TO RETRIEVE THE DATA, TOO.

AND WE'RE LOOKING TO GET AS MUCH DATA AS POSSIBLE, SO PASS IT AROUND TO YOUR FRIENDS AND LET US KNOW WHAT THEY THINK, TOO.

THOSE COMPUTERS ARE MOST LIKELY CONNECTED VIA LAN, SO-- YOU GET WHAT I AM SAYING?

YEAH, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE THAT.

BUT, THEN THEY'D KNOW WHO PASSED IT AROUND, AND THE TEST-MARKET THING WOULD BE KNOWN, AND--

AWESOME. THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR. COUNTIN' ON IT, THEN.

SURE THING, WILL DO!

SO, THEN, JUST SEND THE PLAY DATA YOU'VE ACCUMULATED WEEKLY TO THAT ADDRESS ON THE CARD. NICE TO MEET YOU, KID.

OH, ON THAT NOTE, I NEED TO GIVE YOU MY CONTACT INFOR--

OH...

I GUESS I CAN JUST GIVE IT TO HIM NEXT TIME.

WHA--?

He's gone.

KENSUKE?

KENSUKE, IT'S TIME TO EAT.

NURSE'S OFFICE

ALL RIGHT. OKAY. UNDER-STOOD.

REALLY? HE'S STILL NOT~

HOW ARE THEY, RITSUKO?

TAKE CARE.

click

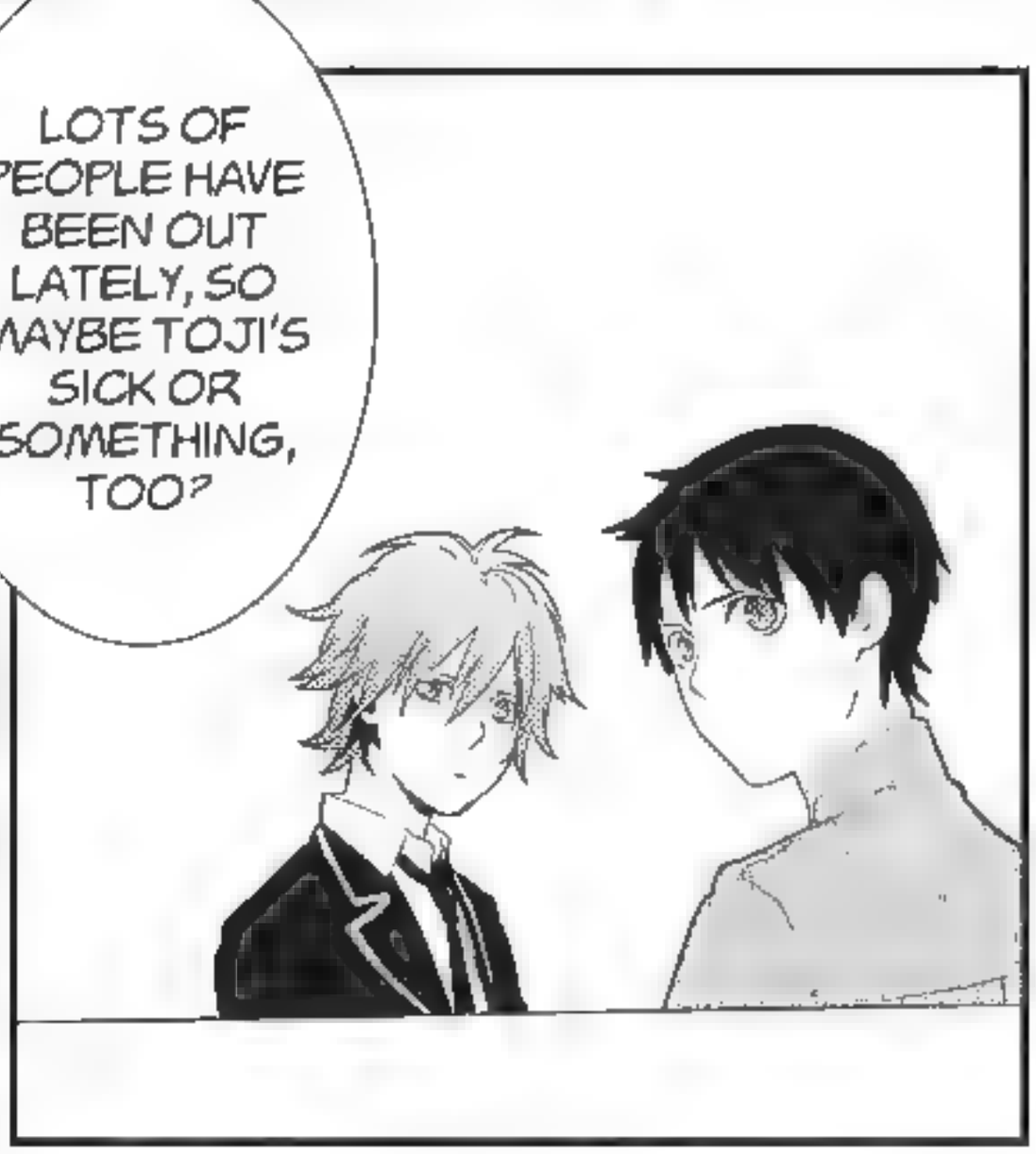
NONE OF THE KIDS SEEM TO HAVE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THEM, BUT THE CONDITION PERSISTS.

I MEAN, THERE'S NOTHING THAT'D DIFFERENTIATE THEM FROM JUST BEING IN A STATE OF NATURAL DEEP SLEEP.

DANG IT, TOJI'S TAKING HIS TIME.

LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN OUT LATELY, SO MAYBE TOJI'S SICK OR SOMETHING, TOO?

JUST A GUESS-- I DUNNO.



A VERY ODD CHANGE AFFLICTED THE STUDENTS OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

AND THEN, HERE AND THERE, STUDENTS BEGAN TO PASS OUT AND COLLAPSE.

IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN READILY IDENTIFIABLE AT FIRST; IT JUST SEEMED THAT AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF KIDS WERE SLEEPING IN CLASS, AND NOTHING MORE.

VERY STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN TO KIDS ONCE THEY STARTED TO PLAY THAT GAME.

"APOCA-LYPSE OF NIGHT."

THAT DAY—

—WHEN KAWORU-KUN SAID THAT TO TOJI, IT MEANT—

THERE'S A CHANCE THAT YOU MIGHT NOT MAKE IT BACK ONE OF THESE DAYS.

YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LAY OFF THAT GAME FOR A WHILE, SUZUHARA-KUN.

THERE'S NO WAY TO CONFIRM THAT ABSO-LUTELY, BUT...

--THAT AFTER ALL--

--IT WAS AN ANGEL?

HIKARI?

AS THE CLASS REP, I AM EQUALLY WORRIED ABOUT *ALL MY* GREAT CLASS-MATES!

WHY'D YOU STOP THERE? I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT *ONLY* SUZUHARA!

WH--

Hey there--

HIKARI, DID YOU HEAR?

HUH? OH... YEAH.

OKAY, WELL, WHATEVER YOU SAY, THEN.

YOU MUST BE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT SUZUHARA.

AAAA

SUZUHARA-KUN, YOU LOOK REALLY BRIGHT EYED AND BUSHY TAILED TODAY!

NO ONE~

~REALLY KNOWS.

YOU STILL HAVE ANY DATA FROM "APOCALYPSE OF NIGHT" LEFT?

NAH, MAN. MY P.C. UP AN' DIED ON ME. LEMME GUESS-- YOU TOO?

HEY-- TOJI!

WELL, UH, DAT'S BECAUSE~

YEAH, JUST BLINKED OUT ALL OF A SUDDEN. NO BLUE SCREEN OF DEATH OR ANYTHING. SO WEIRD.

DAMN--AND I WAS JUST GONNA ASK HIM TO LET ME USE THE DATA SO I COULD RE-INSTALL IT!

PROBABLY NOT GONNA HAPPEN-- EVERYONE ELSE THAT HAD ONE HAD BASICALLY THE SAME THING HAPPEN TO THEM, THEIR P.C.'S JUST DIED ON THEM, AND--

--ALL THE DATA ON THE SCHOOL'S COMPS GOT FRAGGED SOMEHOW, TOO.

MUST HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF MALWARE, THEN. BUT, I MEAN, IT WAS A PRETTY FREAKY GAME TO BEGIN WITH.

WHAT THE HECK WAS IT DOING ON EVERY SCHOOL COMPUTER, ANYWAY?

I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FASTER TO GET EVERYONE TO QUIT IF I JUST WENT STRAIGHT TO THE ROOT AND STOPPED IT THERE.

MAYBE THE REASON WHY KAWORU WAS PLAYING THE GAME WAS..

KAWORU-KUN, WOULD YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

MORNING, EVERYONE!

BUT THERE'S STILL ONE THING THAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT~

WOW, OUR CLASSROOM'S A GHOST TOWN TODAY--

SENSEI ...

DO YOU MEAN THAT~

THERE'S NOT EVEN ANY POINT IN TAKING ROLL WITH THIS FEW STUDENTS HERE.

YEAH, THE MIDDLE-SCHOOL PORTION OF CAMPUS IS CLOSED DUE TO EXTENUATING CIRCUM-STANCES.

YAAAAY

I'M SOOO GLAD TO HEAR YOU GUYS LOVE EDUCATION SO MUCH!

よっしゃ HELL YEAH!

超ラッキー WOOT!

HUH?

OH, SHINJI-KUN, I NEED YOU TO STAY AFTER FOR A SEC.

chat

MAYBE WE SHOULD HEAD TO THAT PLACE - YOU KNOW THAT ONE THAT -

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT

WANNA STOP SOMEWHERE ON THE WAY HOME?

...

chat

AND TO THINK I RAN TO GET HERE ON TIME!

...

TIME TO GO HOME AND TAKE A NAP!

OKAY GUYS, NO SCREWING AROUND. JUST HEAD STRAIGHT HOME, PLEASE.

SORRY TO PUT YOU OUT, BUT WOULD YOU TWO MIND CHECKING ON KENSUKE AIDA FOR ME?

HE'S BEEN OUT SICK A LONG TIME NOW, SO IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND...?

...

HEY, SUZUHARA--

CLASS REP, HOLD UP A SEC.

SENSEI, ALL OF THIS IS JUST A LITTLE TOO STRANGE.

WHAT'S WRONG, CLASS REP?

MAYBE THEY'RE NOT ACTUALLY SICK, BUT IT'S SOMETHING ELSE?

LIKE, YUKO AND MANA-- THEY WERE NEVER EVEN INTO GAMES, BUT NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THEY'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

I MEAN, EVERYONE SIMUL-TANEOUSLY GETTING THE SLEEPING SICKNESS LIKE THIS. SOMETHING'S WRONG.

HIKARI ...

I'M TELLING YA, IT'S ALL GOOD!

LOOK, CLASS REP...

SUZU-HARA!

THEM GETTING SICK JUST HAPPENED T', UH, *HAPPEN* AT THE SAME TIME-- I'M TELLIN' YA, YOUSE WORRYIN' TOO MUCH!

LOOK AT ME! ALL I NEEDED WAS A LITTLE SHUTEYE, AN' IT'S *TOP A' DA WORLD, MA!*

OW, SENSE - YOU'RE MESSIN' UP MY DO!

WHAT A SWELL GUY! WHAT A HERO!

SUZUHARA!

Shove

CHECK OUT SUZUHARA-- THE MAN! THE LEGEND! THE *STALLION!*

WHOA!

HUH?

ASUKA, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

--YOU BETTER WATCH OVER AND PROTECT HIKARI, GOT IT?

WHATEVER MIGHT HAPPEN FROM HERE ON OUT--

ASUKA ...

I'M DEAD SERIOUS! JUST NOD AND OBEY.

ALL RIGHT THEN--

Pause

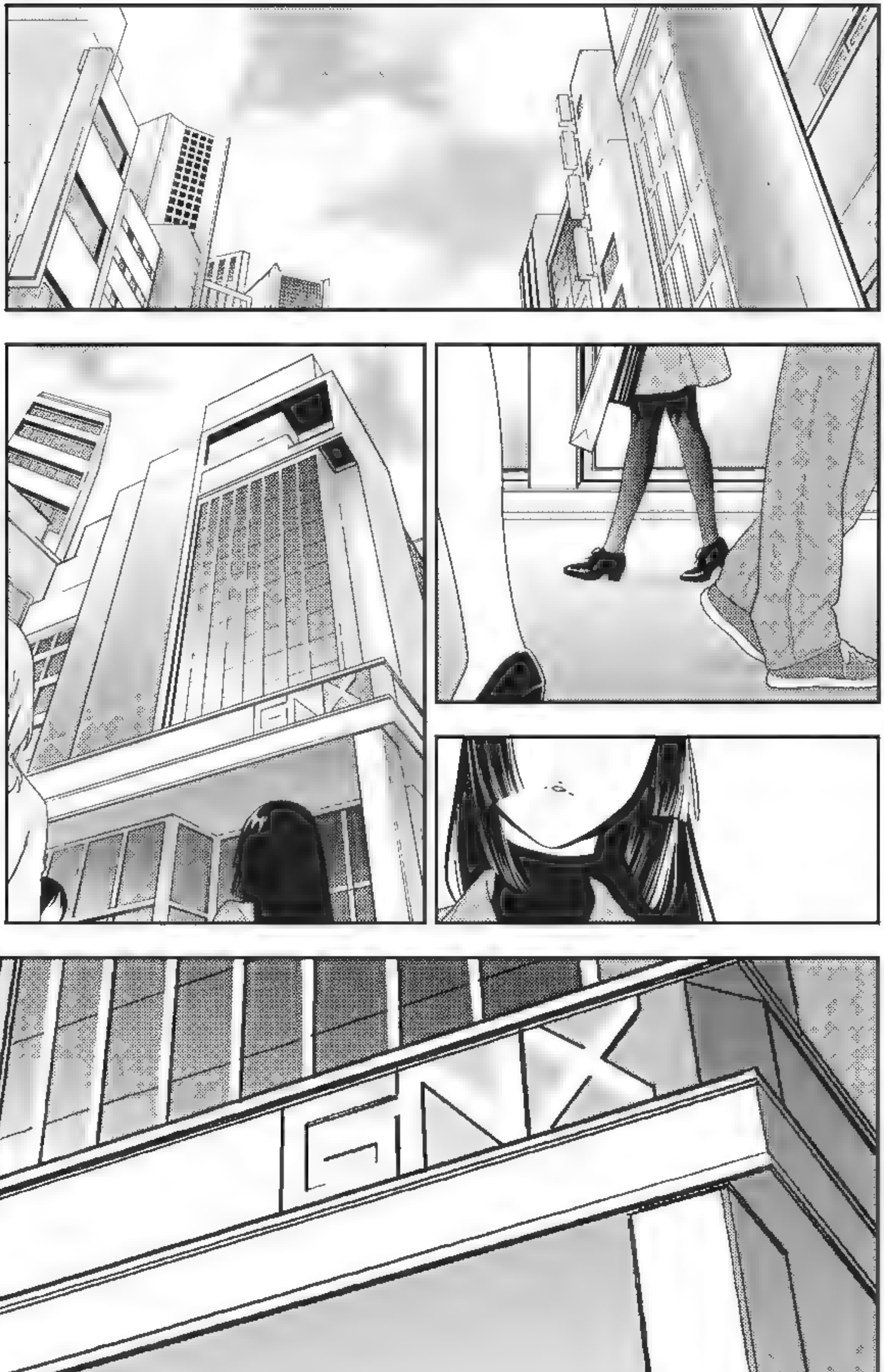
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW?

GO? GO WHERE?

OKAY, WE SHOULD GET GOING.

HUH?

NERV HEAD-QUARTERS!


GNX

I'M A RELATIVE OF MR. M MORI, WHO WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT #2, AND I'M AFRAID SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED IN THE FAMILY. WHERE MIGHT I FIND HIM?

LET ME FIND THAT INFORMATION.

WELCOME.

EXCUSE ME.

HE'S RIGHT OVER THERE.

IT'S LUNCHTIME, SO HE'S PROBABLY OUTSIDE THE BUILDING SOMEWHERE TAKING HIS BRE--

AH, OKAY; NEVER MIND THEN.

WHA--?

YOU'VE REALLY BEEN HOLED UP, WORKING HARD AROUND THE CLOCK-- GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOME NEW BIG PROPERTY?

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HANGING LIKE THIS.

IT'S REALLY NOT ANYTHING COMPLETELY EPIC.

JUST A SMALL GAME THAT'S CURRENTLY IN TEST MARKETING, AND NOT EVEN AT A LEVEL THAT'S READY TO BE PREVIEWED.

BIG BROTHER, WAKE UP!

WHA--?

BROTHER!

I WAS JUST IN THE AREA. ♡

WHA--

YOU!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THAT'S PRETTY HARSH! YOUR ADORABLE LITTLE SISTER THOUGHT SHE'D STOP BY, AND THAT'S THE WAY YOU TREAT HER?

WHOA-- WAIT UP--

GET OVER HERE NOW!

Aw, come on...

I HAD NO IDEA THIS GUY HAD SUCH A PRETTY LITTLE SISTER!

GRRRRR...

HELLO!

YOU'RE WEARING THE SCHOOL UNIFORM OF THE SIERRA GIRLS' SCHOOL, AREN'T YOU?

HELLO THERE, YOUNG LADY.

The hell...?

I KNOW MY BIG BROTHER CAN BE A TWERP SOMETIMES. YOU MUST BE REALLY PATIENT!

HE HAVE A SISTER COMPLEX OR SOMETHING..?

WOW, YOU HAVE YOUR OWN OFFICE, TOO?

I'M THE REALLY SMART KID WHO ALWAYS GETS SICK, SO THEY DON'T GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE ABOUT IT.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU WEREN'T HAVING ANY PROBLEMS, SO I THOUGHT I'D COME BY AND CHECK IN.

NO ONE ASKED YOU TO DO THAT.

OH, SO THAT'S THE SCENARIO YOU CONCOCTED THIS TIME, HUH?

GET REAL. "BIG BROTHER/ LITTLE SISTER"? DOES IT LOOK LIKE ISRAFEL'S HERE, HUH?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, SHAMSHEL? YOU'RE A "STUDENT" AND SHOULD BE IN CLASS RIGHT NOW!

NO IDEA.

WHAT'S LELIEL UP TO? HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND MUCH LATELY.

YOU'RE LUCKY THAT HUMANS ARE AN OPTION FOR US--HAD YOU BEEN A BIRD OR A CAT, THAT CAR WOULD HAVE PROBABLY COMPLETELY OBLITERATED YOU!

SHHH! WATCH WHAT YOU SAY-- IF *THEY* HEAR THAT, YOU WON'T WANNA BE ANYWHERE NEAR THEM.

BUT YOU'RE REALLY UNLUCKY WITH THE VESSELS YOU CHOOSE-- THEY'RE ALWAYS THE WEAKEST OF THE BUNCH.

THE LAST ONE YOU HAD GOT RUN OVER BY A CAR, RIGHT?

POWER-HUNGRY?! THE REASON I AM WHERE I AM IS BECAUSE OF THIS KIND OF THING!

SAME DEAL.

PERFECT THAT A POWER-HUNGRY GUY LIKE YOU CAN BRING THIS PARTICULAR SKILL TO THE TABLE.

OH, C'MON-- YOU'RE THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB; A PERFECT FIT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WITH ALL THE MICROMANAGING THAT HE DOES WITH PEOPLE, IT FIGURES THAT YOU NEVER SEE HIM OUT ACTUALLY DOING ANYTHING. HMMPH.

CAN'T BELIEVE THIS SHIT SOME-TIMES.

RIGHT, RIGHT~ I OUGHTA JUST PIPE DOWN AND GET TO WORK.

BUT ANYWAY, ALL I DID FOR HER WAS GIVE HER A PLACE AND A BODY.

ANYWAY, LET'S GET GOING-- HURRY UP AND LET ME MEET THE GIRL.

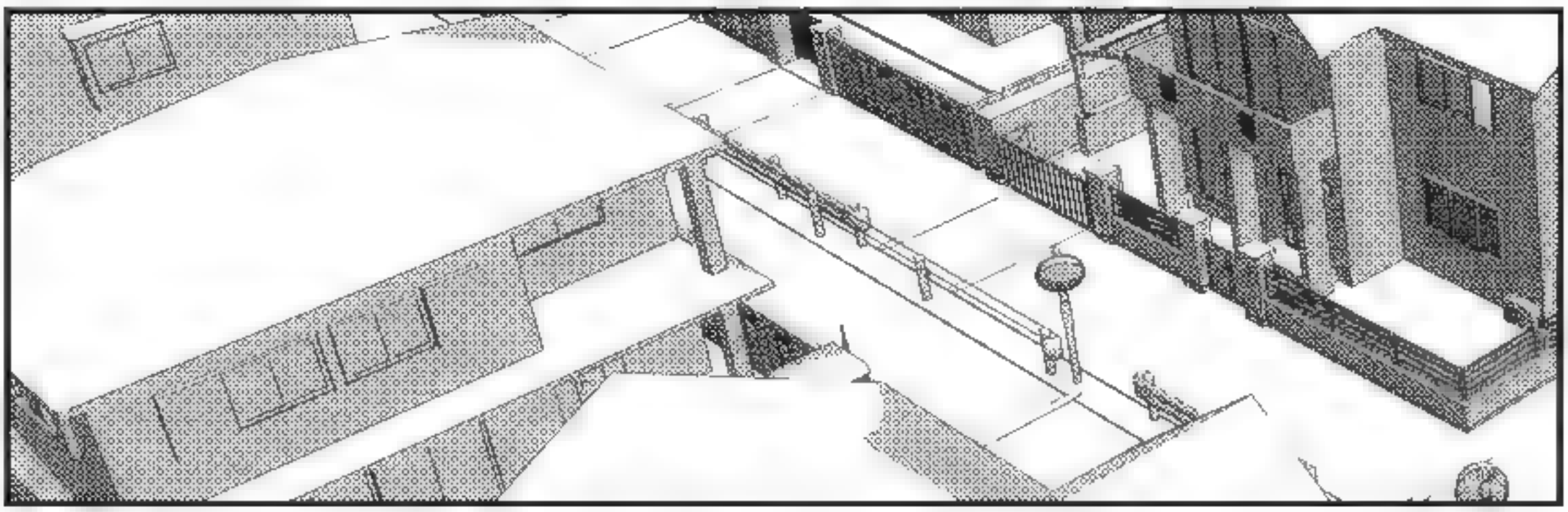
...

HRMMM

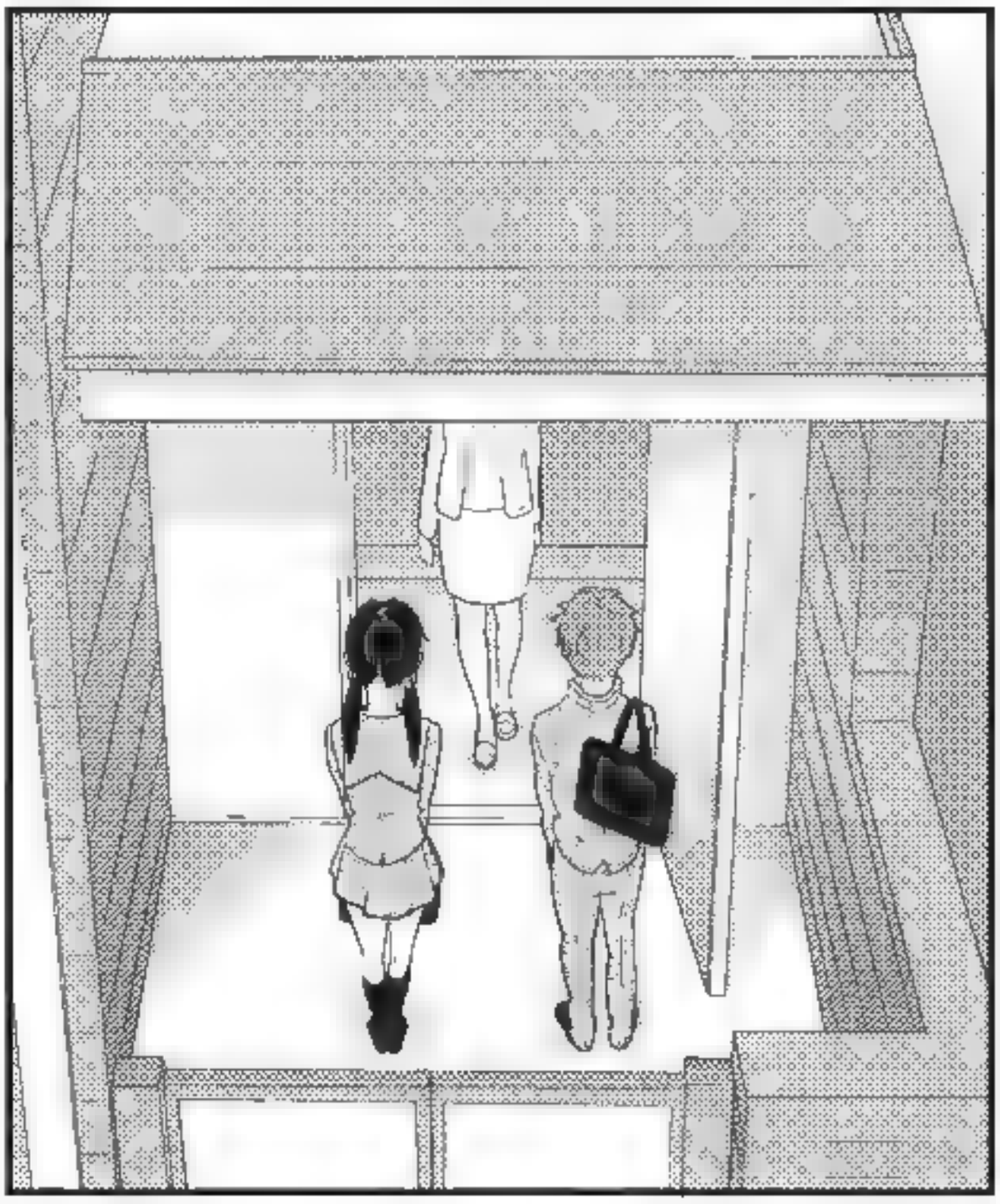
BUT BECAUSE ISRAFEL SENT HER TO US—

—WE WERE ABLE TO ESTABLISH A DIRECT LINK TO THE NERV ACADEMY.

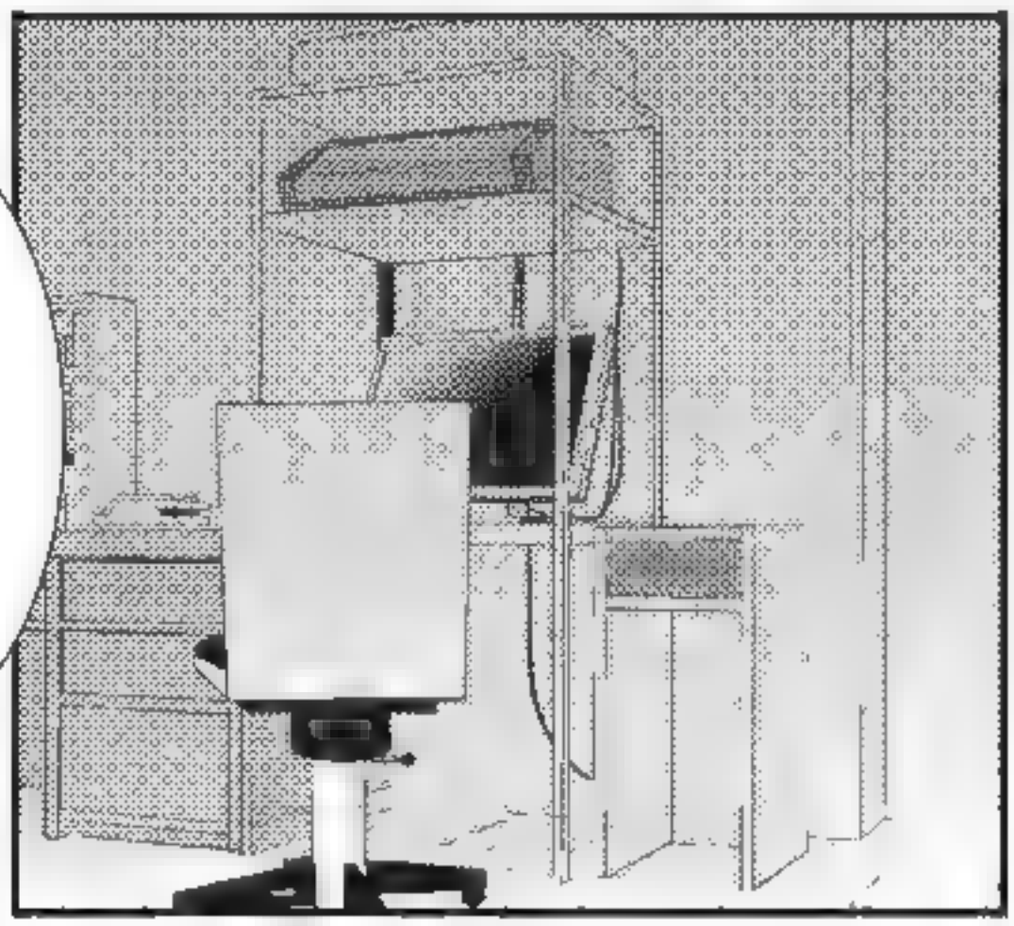
HELLO, IRUEL.



THE INVASION HAS ALREADY BEGUN.



WE CAN'T DO MUCH MORE--



--THAN LEAVE THINGS TO LADY LUCK.

END

OUR FATHER
IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR
NAME.
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE ON
EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US
OUR DAILY BREAD
TODAY.
FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,
AS WE ALSO HAVE
FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO
TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM
THE EVIL ONE.
FOR YOURS IS
THE KINGDOM
AND THE POWER
AND THE GLORY FOREVER.
AMEN.

MINGMING'S GRAFFITI

Makoto Di Nuovo

Cecilia Di Nuovo

Ryoji Kaji

Misato Katsuragi

CHURCH INTERIOR

OUR FATHER

IN HEAVEN,

HALLOWED BE YOUR

NAME,

YOUR KINGDOM COME,

YOUR WILL BE DONE ON

EARTH

AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

GIVE US

OUR DAILY BREAD

AND

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,

AS WE ALSO HAVE

FOR GIVEN OUR DEBTORS.

AND LEAD US NOT INTO

TEMPTATION,

BUT DELIVER US FROM

THE EVIL ONE.

FOR YOURS IS

THE KINGDOM

AND THE POWER

AND THE GLORY FOREVER.

AMEN.

AFTERWORD

Thanks for picking up this book this time around. I just worked so hard on this series that when I paused to take a breath, I had already completed the second volume! And I still feel like it really didn't happen. But here it is, volume 2—thank you so much! I really mean it. While I am happy to see volume 2 finally out, I still want to see the original series move along at some point, too!

—Mingming

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NEON GENESIS EVANGELION CAMPUS APOCALYPSE Volume 2

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Welcome back to the Campus Apocalypse! I'm thrilled at the positive response that volume 1 has received from readers, and yet I am even more thrilled to bring another volume into the world. This volume opens with a dash of religion and a truckload of comedy; then, as the Angels' plans coalesce and strike, it grows darker and more menacing. Sure, there's less overt violence in volume 2—only Kaji's memory of the massacre from this world's version of the First Impact truly brings the blood and dismemberment—but the seeds of further mayhem are planted deep. The Angels are out to take over this world, starting with the most valuable and most vulnerable—Shinji Ikari and his fellow NERV Academy students.

The stakes expand and Kensuke and Toji are brought into the Angels' web through their shared love of video games, and in Kensuke's case, the thrill of being an early adopter. I am a proud member of Team Kensuke, and consider him something like the Wedge Antilles of *Evangelion*, though, of course, he, like everyone, gets pretty thoroughly killed—and more or less forgotten—when the shiz finally goes down. (Stupid Instrumentality, wrecking everything. ;•)) I sure hope that in *Campus Apocalypse*, my favorite freckle-faced military geek gets the chance to survive and document the whole shebang for the Internet. Asuka really needs to become a viral YouTube star, don't you think?

And now, let's open the floor to some feedback.

So . . . Neon Genesis Evangelion: Campus Apocalypse *is awesome!*

As a huge fan of the original, I impulse-bought this little gem while browsing in Barnes & Noble. BEST PURCHASE EVER. Campus Apocalypse is leagues better than Angelic Days *and* The Shinji Ikari Raising Project*!* [Editor's note: At the risk of seeming immodest, I agree. Sorry, Carl.] *The art is crisp, gorgeous, and true to the original designs but still remains unique to the creator's style . . . beautiful!*

High-five, Dark Horse! I'll be following Neon Genesis Evangelion: Campus Apocalypse for sure!

And as an expression of my undying appreciation for you revitalizing the wonderful world of Evangelion, here's some fan art! I hope you like it. Asuka and Kaworu are my two favorite characters. <3

Thanks and keep up the good work!!

With much love,
Caitlin Ungar
State College, Pennsylvania

Thank you, Caitlin! Kaworu and Asuka are two of my favorite characters, too, though, as with the very best ensembles, it's nearly impossible to choose an absolute favorite. Some days, Kaji rocks my world; other days I want to toss down a beer or six with Misato; and sometimes I relate to the alienation and single-mindedness of Rei

Ayanami. And for some reason, I definitely relate to Kensuke! (It must be the glasses.) Still, it always comes back to Shinji for me; we see this world through his eyes, we feel his elation, reticence, and pain, and we experience frustration with his lack of self-belief. However, *Campus Apocalypse* does give Shinji an easier life, reinforcing his circle of friends and his understanding of his place in the world. (Also, that sweet gun helps.) It will be interesting to see if Mingming gives Shinji a break, or if she decides to dismantle his psyche in the way that original creator Hideaki Anno saw fit to do. I'm excited, either way.

I hope that the inclusion of Caitlin's letter—and her amazing artwork—opens the floodgates for more letters and art to come to us. Remember, we have loads of special goodies from Japan to give away, as well as space that is best used to allow the fans to provide their own points of view on the happenings in Tokyo-3. Who is your favorite character? Do you prefer lighter stories, or nightmarish descents into psychological hell? Have *Eva* news or links? Have you seen either of the *Rebuild of Evangelion* films that have been released so far? (I have seen both, and they TOTALLY ROCK.) What do you think of Mingming's uniform designs? Who deserves a sharp Lance of Longinus in the eye? Write in and tell us!

Dance like you want to win,
Jemiah

NEON GENESIS EVANGELION

Campus Apocalypse

Dark Horse is proud to present the second manga series in its *Neon Genesis Evangelion* line, Neon *Genesis Evangelion: Campus Apocalypse*!

Now that he's received his Eva, middle-school student Shinji Ikari commits himself to doing battle with the body-snatching Angels currently terrorizing the NERV Foundation Academy. However, when he finds out the answer to the mystery of what's been going on with Kaworu and Rei, Shinji begins to feel nagging doubt about truths, facts, relationships . . . even his own existence! Is he a burden to his teachers, friends, and family, or does he have a greater destiny? And will anyone make it through this struggle alive?

An original alternate-reality view of the characters and conflicts from the original *Evangelion* story, the second volume from manga creator Mingming raises the stakes facing Shinji, Asuka, Rei, Misato, and everyone in their lives!

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